

## Top men go as Rover reveals loss of £200m

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The sudden departure of three senior executives from the state-controlled Rover Group, formerly BL, was announced yesterday after it disclosed first-half losses totalling more than £200 million.

Among the casualties is Mr Harold Musgrove, the veteran BL executive who rose from the shop floor to become Austin Rover chairman, and who takes early retirement at the end of this month.

He follows two other BL executives, Mr Ray Horrocks and Mr David Andrews, in being forced out of the ailing group since Mr Graham Day, the new chairman, arrived.

The boardroom cuts have been instituted by Mr Day as part of the creation of a streamlined, two-tier structure to improve group efficiency and give the cars business "more commercial punch".

With Mr Musgrove, aged 57, go Mr Mark Snowdon, the managing director of product development who has guided much of the collaboration between Rover and Honda, and Mr Peter Regnier, finance director of Austin Rover.

Mr Day declined to comment yesterday on the departures, but it is generally accepted Mr Musgrove, who joined Austin as an apprentice at the end of the Second World War, could no longer work under Mr Day.

Mr Musgrove was appointed chairman and chief executive of Austin Rover on

its formation in 1982. This latest development in the long running saga of the declining indigenous British motor industry is likely to be followed by more top management changes.

Under the shake-up, Mr Day personally assumes the chairmanship of Austin Rover, Freight Rover, Land Rover and Leyland Trucks.

Promoted are Mr Les Wharton, previously managing director of Leyland Trucks, who becomes managing director of Austin Rover, Mr Tony Rose, finance director of Land Rover Leyland, now group finance director of Austin Rover, and Mr Chris Woodward, managing director of Land Rover Leyland International Holdings, who takes up the new post of Austin Rover commercial director.

The new managing director of Leyland Trucks is Mr



Mr Graham Day, tightening hold on reins.

George Simpson, also managing director of Freight Rover. Mr Nigel Penn, previously managing director of African operations, is the new managing director of the international company.

Mr Day, charged by the Government with returning the company to profitability in the hope of eventual privatization, said: "I am sure there are lots of skeletons I have not yet found. But there are a hell of a lot of good people and I am going to try to capitalize on the strengths that are there."

Half-year results show an operating loss for the group of £71.1 million against £11.3 million a year earlier.

The post-tax loss of £120 million (£45.5 million) was boosted to £204.5 million by an £83.6 million extraordinary item. The latter is a provision for estimated losses arising from the proposed sale of Leyland Bus and Unipart.

Austin Rover, whose market share has tumbled this year and is running this month at below 15 per cent, made a half-year loss of £60.9 million compared with a small £600,000 profit a year ago. In contrast to its poor home sales, Rover's exports were the best for seven years and overseas revenue rose by 20 per cent to a record £354 million.

Land Rover, including Freight Rover, improved its

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Side by side: Dr Owen and Mr Steel leaving the studios of Thames Television yesterday.

## US rejects Daniloff proposal

From Christopher Thomas Washington

The feverish search for a solution to the superpower crisis over Mr Nicholas Daniloff continued last night as the United States rejected a Soviet proposal for modifications to a US expulsion order against 25 personnel at the Soviet mission to the United Nations.

Soviet officials have presented several possible arrangements to American officials to secure the release of Mr Daniloff, an American journalist accused of spying in Moscow, and Mr Genady Zakharov, a Soviet employee at the UN charged with espionage.

It seemed clear last night that both sides are attempting to put together a package that would have the appearance of falling short of a direct swap. American officials adamantly rejected any linking of the Daniloff case with that of the expulsion of the Soviet personnel at the UN.

The crux of the various Soviet proposals is that Mr Daniloff, a correspondent for US News & World Report, could leave the Soviet Union without trial while Mr Zakharov was tried in the US. If Mr Zakharov was convicted, he would be swapped for an unspecified number of Soviet dissidents. Administration officials last night said they were hopeful about an early resolution.

The timing of that plan is believed to have been a subject of intense negotiation. The nub of the US position is that Mr Daniloff must be released before any other moves can take place. That would enable the Administration to claim it had not agreed to a swap.

The question of whether the Soviet dissidents would be released before or after Mr Zakharov was sent home was undoubtedly being debated in the continuing talks yesterday.

Another American position is that the case of Mr Zakharov is sub judice and that he must stand trial.

Republican leaders are now flatly rejecting any possibility of a summit between Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev until the Daniloff case is settled.

## Owen to delay on Liberal merger

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, made it clear last night that he plans to use the Liberal Party's disarray on defence policy to delay any merger between the two Alliance parties.

In a joint interview with Mr David Steel on Thames Television's *This Week*, Dr Owen said that the Liberal Assembly's rebuff to Mr Steel and insistence on a non-nuclear defence policy "confirms my belief that it is not time yet to merge our parties and to put ourselves into collective decision making".

On the same programme Mr Steel confirmed that he intends to defy the Liberal Assembly vote. He supported Dr Owen's insistence that any Alliance government would maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent for Britain even if it involved the replacement of Polaris. That view contradicts long-established Liberal policy.

Mr Steel and Dr Owen now plan not just to continue their drive for agreement on a

minimum European deterrent but to speed up the process. It is then expected that they will hold a joint meeting of Liberal and SDP candidates to endorse their deal.

Dr Owen is pressing Mr Steel, in addition, to hold a special Liberal Assembly to back the agreed policy, so as to

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expunge as far as possible the memory of the Eastbourne disaster.

As the two party leaders began their damage limitation exercise, Dr Owen was noticeably restrained alongside a tense Mr Steel. Though he said he was shocked by the Liberal Assembly's vote he would not be tempted into condemnation of the Liberals.

He said he had sympathy for Mr Steel in his predicament and both admitted that the Liberal Assembly vote had taken them by surprise.

Mr Steel stressed that there was no difference between the Liberal and SDP parliamentary parties, only between him and his own party. "The trouble lies between myself and the parliamentary leadership of the Liberal Party, and the Assembly." It is not a divide between David Owen and me.

Mr Steel is expected to tackle the defence question head-on in his speech to the Liberal Assembly today. Senior Liberals predicted last night that a number in the audience would not like his home truths, which Mr Steel had to offer them.

## Liberals deepen conflict with SDP

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Liberal Party voted yesterday to phase out Britain's nuclear power industry and put itself into further direct conflict with its Alliance partners.

By a big majority the assembly in Eastbourne committed the Liberals to becoming the first political party to go for an end to nuclear power—a week after the SDP decided that more stations could be built.

Coming so soon after the shattering conference defeat for Mr David Steel on nuclear defence, the decision is another blow to Alliance unity.

It is a division which both leaderships are confident of healing.

The assembly decided to halt the commissioning of further nuclear stations; to begin a "planned phasing out" of all nuclear power, and to set

a timetable for and start work on the decommissioning of the older Magnox power stations "forthwith".

Last week the SDP at its Harrogate conference defeated a move to commit the party to an anti-nuclear stance.

It backed a moratorium on the building of further stations pending a safety review, but went further than its leader, Dr David Owen, wished by voting for the building of new stations to continue, subject to the satisfactory outcome of a stringent safety review.

Dr Owen, because of his demands on the Liberals on nuclear defence, was happy to move towards them on civil nuclear power. His conference's decision, therefore, was an embarrassment.

The parties' policy committees will now attempt to thrash out a compromise.

## European code agreed to curb terror leaders

By Michael Evans, Whitehall Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, yesterday announced important steps for improving co-operation within the EEC to help to seek out and "disrupt" the terrorist organizations in Europe.

After the emergency meeting of the Trevi Group of EEC interior ministers in London, Mr Hurd and his European counterparts expressed optimism that the measures agreed would produce more speedy and effective action against the terrorists.

In particular, the 12 ministers have agreed that all the European police forces must share a new communications system for alerting one another on the movement and activities of known terrorists.

Officials at the conference disclosed that this will mean the introduction of a special classified coded system to which only the police and security authorities will have access.

There will also be new arrangements within the Trevi Group for regular up-to-date assessments of terrorist threats and to target the main leaders and organizations.

Mr Hurd, who chaired the conference, made it clear that the police forces in Europe would select from the "thousands of suspects" a small number identified as "really dangerous and significant". Those suspects would be given priority treatment by the police throughout the EEC.

Mr Hurd said: "As terrorists have become better organized, so governments and their counter-terrorist forces are having continually to improve their knowledge and co-operation if they are to prevent terrorist attacks and take effective counter-action if they occur."

He added: "These new measures will help us to target terrorists' movements, supplies of money, arms and equipment, so that we can harry and disrupt them."

Mr Hurd emphasized that there was already co-operation within the EEC and a flow of intelligence information but there was no room for complacency.

As Britain now holds the presidency of the European Council of Ministers, Mr Hurd clearly wanted to be seen to be creating a new political impetus to improve the present procedures.

The EEC ministers reaffirmed their determination not to make any concessions to terrorists and to intensify their efforts against terrorism.

Other measures which are now to become the focus of urgent discussion will include an examination of visa arrangements and a study of extradition procedures to stop terrorists from slipping through any legal loopholes.

There was also unanimous agreement to review security checking systems at airports and to examine more ways of eliminating diplomatic abuses.

Officials last night emphasized that for the first time all EEC countries seemed ready for the fullest possible co-operation to combat the terrorist threat.

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## Today

The party's over...

**HARD LABOUR**

Retiring MP Robert Kilroy-Silk explains why he finally decided to give up his safe Labour seat

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## Next week

Through the roof...

Property boom... or heading for bust? On Monday, *The Times* begins a three-part series on the roller-coaster property market; picking a path through the minefields of buying and selling; the grief of gazumping; the pain of repossession

Portfolio

● Yesterday's £4,000 prize in *The Times* Portfolio Gold competition was won outright by Mrs L Ward of Harborne, Birmingham. Details page 3

● There is a further £4,000 to be won today. Portfolio list page 23; rules and how to play, information service, 16.

## Contra alert

Contra camps in Honduras have been declared off-limits to journalists and US forces put on alert as rumours abound of a forthcoming big attack into Nicaragua Page 8

## London list

A further list of London University degrees is published today Page 5

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## Scargill forced to cut costs

By Tim Jones

Faced with serious financial difficulties because of the year-long strike which virtually wiped out its £8 million funds, the National Union of Mineworkers executive was told by its president, Mr Arthur Scargill, yesterday of a big economies.

Plans for a grand new showpiece headquarters in Sheffield are to be scaled down and the 22 constituency associations in the 18 NUM areas are to be reduced to 10.

The union's precarious financial position has also been compounded by reduced income from falling membership. Before the strike there were 150,000 members but that is now barely 100,000 because of redundancies and the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

The executive also decided to send a nine-man delegation headed by Mr Scargill to meet Sir Robert Haslam, the new chairman of British Coal, in an effort to resolve the festering dispute over back pay.

In a move regarded as a direct challenge to the traditional bargaining role of the union, Sir Robert ordered the immediate payment of rises of £3 a week to the miners which had been blocked by the NUM.

● British Coal also received yesterday a two-year pay claim from the UDM which calls for "substantial rises" on grade rates, as well as attendance allowances, secondary incentive bonuses and an early retirement scheme.

## Israeli jets hit Sidon PLO base

From Robert Fisk Beirut

The Israeli Air Force turned its attention to Mr Yasser Arafat's main Fatah guerrilla organization east of the Lebanese city of Sidon yesterday, sending three jets to fire rockets at a Palestinian guerrilla base in an olive grove not far from the Mieh Mieh refugee camp.

It was the second raid of its kind in three days and left one guerrilla dead and two others wounded.

Three aircraft dived towards the encampment of the Palestine Liberation Army, the regular military wing of Mr Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization, just before midday, while three other Israeli aircraft flew cover at a higher altitude in case the bombers were attacked by the Syrian Air Force.

Palestinian gunmen prevented journalists from entering the wrecked base, claiming that they might give away information of use to the Israelis.

A PLA officer, who gave his name only as "Alaa", confirmed the death of one of his men. Several guerrillas said that the base had a large quantity of 5 calibre machine guns and 106 mm recoilless rifles.

● JERUSALEM: A military spokesman here said there were good hits on targets in the raid, including anti-aircraft weapons, firing positions and tents in a wooded area.

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## Fan killed in gang attack

Laton talks, page 3

A football fan was killed when he was hit on the head by a stone after Wednesday night's Skol Cup semi-final in Glasgow between Rangers and Dundee United.

Mr Ian Hamilton, aged 41, of Salsburgh, Lanarkshire, was travelling home with his son, an off-duty policeman, and 10 others when their minibus was attacked by a gang.

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## French force for Togo

Paris — France today said it was sending air and ground units to Togo at the request of President Gnassingbe Eyadema following an outbreak of shooting in the west African country (Reuters reports).

"The president of the Togolese Republic has asked for the military aid of France under the defence agreements between Togo and France," a Defence Ministry statement said.

"Air and ground military units will be sent to Togo as quickly as possible."

Fresh shooting broke out in the Togolese capital of Lome yesterday, 48 hours after an abortive raid on the barracks where Eyadema lives. Thirteen died in the attack.

Togo, which has close links with France, is one of several former French colonies in west Africa to have military accords with Paris.

## Bodies yield clues to ill-fated Arctic expedition

From John Best, Ottawa

Scientists working in the frozen north of Canada have unravelled chilling details of the Sir John Franklin expedition which perished to a man 140 years ago while attempting to find the fabled North-West Passage.

The cause of the tragedy remains a mystery but no evidence was found to support the long-held theory that cannibalism may have played a part in the deaths of the 129 men.

starvation. Lead poisoning may have been a confounding factor.

Sir John Franklin set out from England in 1845, with 128 crew members and scientists, to find the North West Passage, which European explorers had long sought as a short-cut to the Orient.

They were never seen again, and the mystery of why they died has since been an intriguing part of Canadian history. The Victorians sent out a succession of expeditions in vain attempts to trace the lost men.

The Franklin expedition spent its first winter locked in the arctic ice aboard two ships, the *Erzbau* and the *Terror*. Several members, including Franklin, died then.

Two years later, 105 remaining crew members abandoned the ships and headed south, possibly for Hudson's Bay Company post on the Canadian mainland. They were hauling lifeboats.

More than 30 years later, their skeletons were found, stretching in a line across King William Island.

Why they left their ships has

never been established, although historians have speculated that scurvy may have begun ravaging the crews.

The latest autopsies revealed no sign of scurvy although it could have played a role in some later deaths, as supplies dwindled.

As a bitter footnote to the Franklin tragedy, the route of the North West Passage, when eventually discovered, was found to lead to the Beaufort Sea rather than the Pacific Ocean and the Orient. The Beaufort Sea is an arm of the Arctic Ocean.

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# Oil firms to fight back in price war at pumps

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain's major oil companies are preparing to fight back against criticism that they are quick to put up petrol prices when crude oil prices rise and slow to bring them down when costs fall.

They are also determined to end speculation that they act together on pricing and use profits from one sector to cover losses in other sectors.

BP Oil will this weekend start distributing leaflets at its 2,000 filling stations explaining when and why petrol prices rise. Other companies stung by criticism from consumer organizations and MPs are considering putting their case more forcefully.

One option being considered, which will embarrass the Government, is making sure that prices on pumps clearly show the tax element of every gallon - currently £1.10p.

BP Oil, which will not adopt that tactic, are furious with what it describes as the "unconscious" voiced by some Conservative MPs when petrol prices were put up.

BP Oil is also angry that most criticism from within Parliament has come from Conservative MPs who, the company says, are members of the political party which calls for non-interventionism in industry by the Government.

The company points to the report by the Commons Energy Select Committee which ruled that there was no reason to support the view that prices rose quickly but fell slowly.

It also says that profit figures do not show that excess profits are made from petrol. While BP as a whole reported record half year profits this year, it lost almost £1 billion on crude oil stocks.

Mr David Kendall, chief executive of BP Oil, the refining and marketing arm of BP, said: "We have to buy crude in the market place in the same way as any other company. Although this may be difficult for the motorist to understand it means that petrol being offered at a cheaper rate by one of our competitors could be made from crude oil which they were able to buy at a cheaper rate than we could."

"It also means that our refineries use oil from companies other than BP and from other companies."

Mr Kendall added: "To answer any charges that we collude on pricing without our competitors is simple. We just couldn't afford to give them any information about our operations which would give them a marketing advantage."

"We are selling the same product in the same market and we have broadly similar operating costs."

"We have to use every advantage over our competitors we can."

"But as far as working hand in hand is concerned that is nonsense. Apart from the fact that it would be illegal the market is simply too competitive to for that to work," Mr Kendall said.



Mr Sebastian Guinness, Miss Clara Johnston, her sister Miss Rose Johnston, and her mother at Oxford yesterday after the court appearance of Mr Guinness and Miss Rose Johnston.

## Channon party host fined £80

Gottfried Alexander von Bismarck, the host of the Oxford party at which Miss Olivia Channon, daughter of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, died, was fined £80 by Oxford magistrates yesterday for possessing drugs.

Miss Channon, aged 22, died after celebrating the end of her final examinations.

Von Bismarck, grandson of Germany's Iron Chancellor and a graduate from Christchurch, admitted possessing amphetamine sulphate between January and June.

The prosecution offered no evidence on a second charge of possessing cocaine, after hearing that von Bismarck was in Spain at the time of the alleged offence.

Mr Paul Harrison, for the prosecution, told the court that after Miss Channon's death in the court's bedroom von Bismarck went to the police who found amphetamine sulphate worth about £4 in his possession.

Mr Robin Grey, QC, for the defence, told the court: "This girl's death is going to be a shadow over the head of Gottfried von Bismarck, probably for the rest of his life, although it cannot be said he was in any way responsible."

But the court's principal problem was alcohol, not drugs. He would feel so bad after a night's drinking that he would take amphetamine sulphate to help him to concentrate on his studies.

The magistrates earlier committed three other people for trial on drugs-related charges after Miss Channon's death.

They were Rose Johnston, aged 23, of Shellington House, near Farnham, Surrey; Sebastian Guinness, aged 22, of Hereford Square, south-west London; and Paul Dunstan, aged 31, a jobless pop musician, of Dollis Hill, north London.

Mr Dunstan was remanded in custody until his trial at Oxford Crown Court. Miss Johnston and Mr Guinness were granted bail and ordered to surrender their passports.

## Church of England report Outlook bleak for rural life

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

A bleak picture of life in rural England, with poor public transport, dwindling employment opportunities, high prices in shops and the elderly living in miserable isolation, is painted in a Church of England report published today.

One of its authors, the Bishop of Norwich, the Right Rev Peter Nott, said yesterday the idea that people who lived in rural areas were well-heeled was "mere mythology".

The report argues for a full-scale inquiry by the church into conditions in rural areas, similar to the controversial survey of inner urban areas published last year. But the setting up of such an archbishop's commission is likely to be delayed for at least a year because of the cost, which could be £100,000.

The bishop and his co-author, Canon Anthony Russell, say they are hopeful about the future of the church in rural areas and point to "many signs of life and growth". But it is an area of national life, "in which the church currently finds itself struggling to maintain a presence and in which there is serious concern about the future".

According to the report, the main difficulties facing rural communities are:

- Population shift, with less wealthy families rooted in the community moving out and the more prosperous, with lifestyles centred on the city, moving in;
- "Unequal competition" for housing between poorer local people and the better off moving from the cities;
- Poor mobility, with 30 per cent of people without cars, particularly the elderly, forced to travel long distances for doctors' surgeries, shops, banks, social services;
- Many smaller villages have no shops or services;
- Shrinking employment in agriculture and other rural industries;
- Low wages, and widespread dependence on the fortunes of a single company;
- The closure of many village schools, and long-distance bussing of pupils;
- Village shop prices up to 20 per cent above urban supermarkets.

The report says that special problems are faced by young people and those starting families because of lack of employment opportunities and a shortage of suitable cheaper housing.

A Rural Strategy for the Church of England (Church House Bookshop, Great Smith Street, London SW1 5DP).

## World Chess Championship Kasparov resigns adjourned game

From Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Leningrad

Gary Kasparov, the world champion, resigned the adjourned position of the 19th game of the World Chess Championship as expected without further play yesterday.

Anand Karpov's sealed move 41 was Kc4.

The score is now 9½ points each and five games remain to be played. Kasparov needs 2½ points to retain his title.

Karpov, the former world champion, had adjourned the 19th game in an overwhelming position. Karpov had Bishop and four Pawns against Knight and three.

Once again, Kasparov chose to defend with the Gruenfeld Variation but he varied his play from games 15 and 17 with the move 7...Na6 popularized by the Dutch Grandmaster, Prins.

Nevertheless, Kasparov's choice of that alternative appears to have come as no surprise to his opponent.

After almost an hour of thought, the world champion embarked on an unsound adventure with his 15th move. It seemed likely that this was based on a miscalculation. At move 18 Kasparov had probably planned to play ...Ng3 with an apparently devastating attack against the White Queen. Kasparov must have overlooked in his original assessment that the undefended Black Rook would then be immediately decisive.

The result of Kasparov's play was that he lost Bishop for Rook without adequate compensation. Towards the

White	Black	White	Black
1 d4	Nf6	21 Qd4	Qd4
2 c4	e5	22 Nc4	Bd2
3 Nc3	c5	23 Nc2	Bd7
4 Nf3	Bg7	24 Bg7	Bd5
5 Qb3	d5	25 Bg4	g5
6 Qd4	Qd7	26 Bg3	Bd1
7 Na4	Nb6	27 Bg5	Nd6
8 Bc2	c5	28 Kd1	Nd6
9 e5	exd5	29 Bc7	Nd5
10 d4	exd5	30 Bc5	Rd1
11 Bc5	Bd5	31 Bc6	Rd1
12 Bf4	Nd4	32 Rf5	b6
13 Bf4	Nd4	33 Bf4	Ne7
14 Nf5	Qf6	34 Bf6	Rd5
15 Bf3	Nd4	35 Bf5	d6
16 Nc7	Nd5	36 Bf6	Nd5
17 Nc8	Rd5	37 Kd2	Rd7
18 Qd3	Qd2	38 Kd3	Kd6
19 Rd1	Qd1	39 Kd4	Nd5
20 Nc2	Qd4	40 Kd4	Nd5

Black resigned.

## Boeing is Nimrod's sole rival

By Rodney Cowton

The Ministry of Defence has eliminated five out of seven companies which have been competing to supply airborne early warning aircraft to the Royal Air Force.

After a competition which began last March the only two remaining companies are the American Boeing with the AWACS aircraft, which is in service with Nato and the United States Air Force, and the British company GEC with the troubled Nimrod project.

Last night Lord Trefgarne, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, announced that both companies would be invited to submit "best and final bids" by early November.

The five companies which have been eliminated from the competition are the two leading American aircraft manufacturers, Grumman and Lockheed, and three much smaller British firms - British Aerospace, Airship Industries and MEL of Crawley.

France also requires aircraft for this role and has been for some time considering buying three AWACS. Lord Trefgarne said that French officials would be joining the British team's in evaluating both the Nimrod and AWACS bid.

## Dockyard jobs at risk

By a Staff Reporter

Reductions in the amount of work needed to maintain the ships and submarines of the Royal Navy will lead to large-scale job losses at the Royal Dockyards and Rosyth and Devonport within two years, according to a government consultative document.

The Ministry of Defence is planning to introduce private commercial management into the dockyards next April, and is considering bids by six consortia for the job.

Workers at both dockyards are planning to strike today in protest against the reorganization and in support of their demand that they should continue to be employed within the Civil Service.

The document published yesterday relates to a form of organization which the ministry would implement only if the management contract bids were unsatisfactory.

Assessments of employment prospects under this form of organization suggest that 3,000 jobs would be lost at Devonport in the first two years and 700 at Rosyth.

In the longer term it is estimated that the number of jobs at Devonport would fall from 11,460 to about 6,340 in 1993-94, and at Rosyth from 5,900 to 4,680.

## Union backing for Wapping deal

By Tim Jones

The 200 engineers dismissed by News International after taking strike action have been urged by their union leaders to accept the company's final settlement offer, which includes compensation totalling £58 million.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union is the first of the three print unions involved in the eight-month Wapping dispute to give unequivocal backing for the offer.

Members of the union's national executive took their decision after hearing a report from Mr Les Elliot, their Fleet Street officer, which recommended acceptance of the offer which lapses on October 8.

His summary was accepted by a senior official who said: "This appears to be the best deal we can get and we believe this is the last chance for a realistic settlement and will be urging the men to vote in favour."

He made it clear that, irrespective of what other unions decided, if his members voted to accept the

## Radiation claim refuted

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Ministry of Agriculture reacted angrily yesterday to reports that radiation levels in sheep in Cumbria and North Wales were higher now than when restrictions on their movement were imposed more than three months ago.

Suggestions that the radiation might be caused not by fallout from the Chernobyl explosion, in the Soviet Union, but by emissions from nuclear power stations and from the Sellafield processing plant were dismissed as "absolutely unfounded".

Besides the Sellafield/Calder Hall complex in Cumbria, owned by British Nuclear Fuels, the Central Electricity Generating Board has two nuclear power stations at Wylfa and Trawsfynydd in North Wales.

When the ministry imposed its restrictions on June 20, six weeks after Chernobyl, it set a so-called "trigger" level of 1,000 becquerels a kilogram (A becquerel is a measurement of radioactive decay).

But it pointed out then that that was far below the level of 10,000 becquerels established by the International Atomic Energy Authority as constituting a health risk.

It said then that the highest level detected was 4,000 becquerels.

Figures produced at yesterday's meeting of the National Farmers' Union council in London, suggested that there had been no appreciable fall in radio-caesium levels and that in some cases they were still three or four times the trigger level.

The NFU criticized the ministry for its handling of the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster.

The Government rejected a demand from Cumbria County Council for tighter controls over discharges into the sea of radioactive material from the Sellafield plant. The council said it was worried about safety of the undersea pipes that carry waste from the plant.

## Former union leader praises Tebbit laws

By a Staff Reporter

The former leader of the largest Civil Service union said yesterday that the trade union movement should be proud of its highest honour on Mr Norman Tebbit, chairman of the Conservative Party, for forcing changes on them.

The suggestion, by Mr Alistair Graham, until two months ago general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, is bound to be received with incredulity by former colleagues in the TUC.

But the remarks by Mr Graham, who left his strident union two months ago to become director of the Industrial Society, found favour with his audience at a lunch hosted by Lloyds of London.

Mr Graham said: "The provisions of the 1984 Trade Union Act have been wholly beneficial to trade unions and if it is possible to award life membership of a trade union to Norman Tebbit then the trade union movement should collectively agree to do so."

"I have just spent the last few years watching the trade union movement having to accept increased accountability to society."

"It is clear that the majority of people in Britain, including the majority of trade union members, felt this increased accountability was overdue."

Mr Graham forecast that the main legal changes, such as secret pre-strike ballots, would survive a change of Government.

## Postponed jail terms proposed

By Peter Evans and Martin Fletcher

A waiting list of prisoners allowed to stay at home until called to serve their sentences was advocated yesterday by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, vice-president of the Howard League for Penal Reform.

"If the intake of prisoners were evenly spread throughout the year there would be no untoward problem for the prison service," he said.

Speaking at the League's annual conference in Oxford, Mr Blom-Cooper said the aim was to avoid overcrowding by reducing pressure on the system which, according to Home Office figures released yesterday, show that the prison population in England and Wales rose sharply last year reaching a new peak of 48,200.

There remained a disproportionate number of inmates from the ethnic minorities, with West Indians accounting for 8 per cent of the male prison population.

Under the idea put forward by the league, offenders sentenced to imprisonment would be sent to a letter ordering them to report on a certain date at a specified prison.

Mr Blom-Cooper said it was customary in continental European systems to postpone the start of a prison sentence and that it allowed jail administrators to spread the load of imprisonment over the whole year.

He said that if there were an intolerable build-up in the waiting list "it might be proper for the executive to issue a mass pardon for the offenders sentenced to shorter terms of imprisonment."

For sentences of two years or less call-up could be suspended or a sentence reduced in length, coupled with a power to defer it up to a further six months.

These sentences to periods of imprisonment of more than two years would not be allowed any postponement of the execution of their sentence except with the consent of the court of trial.

Any person who failed to respond to a call-up would be liable to disciplinary action.

Mr John Baird, chairman of the Prison Officers Association, said in a paper that during the past 11 months, 1,108 staff had been assaulted by prisoners and 631 prisoners assaulted by fellow inmates, two prisoners have been murdered and there have been 1,700 reported drugs incidents.

"It is possible against this appalling background for a prisoner not to have a bath in a seven-day period, not have a clear change of underwear, nor to have a comb or a handkerchief."

## Divis flats demolition sought

By a Staff Reporter

Divis flats, the notorious terrorist-ridden warren of high-rise and deck-access flats which dominates the Roman Catholic Lower Falls area, only 600 yards from Belfast city centre, should be demolished.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive announced yesterday that its board decided on Wednesday to amend its housing strategy in favour of demolition and replacement of Divis by conventional housing, rather than refurbishment.

About 480 families live in the complex compared with the 795 families for which it was designed.

Mr Richard Needham, the Northern Ireland Under Secretary of State for housing, said yesterday that he would respond as soon as possible.

## Toll bridge workers held

By a Staff Reporter

Motorists were allowed across the Tamar toll bridge, near Plymouth, free yesterday after detectives arrested 16 bridge workers in connection with allegations of fraud.

Devon and Cornwall county council chiefs, who are responsible for running the bridge which links the two counties, decided to suspend toll charges after the employees were detained.

## Hatton absent

By a Staff Reporter

Mr Derek Hatton, the Liverpool left-wing councillor, stayed away from an appeal hearing yesterday against his dismissal from his £11,600 a year post with Knowsley Borough Council.

He was represented by Mr Roger Bannister, the Knowsley Nalgo branch secretary. The hearing is expected to last two days.

## Acid gas cloud

By a Staff Reporter

The Health and Safety Executive yesterday launched an inquiry into a leak of concentrated sulphuric acid at a dye works which released an acid gas cloud over central Manchester on Wednesday night and put 19 people, including nine children, in hospital.

## Player jailed

By a Staff Reporter

The Swinton rugby league player, Brian Higgins, aged 28, of Boyle Avenue, Orford, Warrington, who was caught in bed with a girl aged 13 by his wife, was jailed for six months at Warrington Crown Court yesterday after being admitted unlawful sexual intercourse.

## Driver aged 9

By a Staff Reporter

Police called to the scene of an accident in Poole, Dorset, discovered a boy aged nine at the wheel of the car and his sister aged eight in the passenger seat. Police said because of their age no action could be taken against them.

## Cement case

By a Staff Reporter

Twenty-five former employees of the Blue Circle company, Britain's biggest manufacturer of cement, were yesterday remanded on bail at West London Court after being charged with conspiring to steal cement worth £2 million.

## Teachers challenged on appraisal

By Mark Dowd, Education Reporter

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State in the Department of Education and Science, yesterday issued a challenge to teaching unions on appraisal.

She dismissed as "rubbish" fears that any such scheme would be a back-door plot designed to pay more money to some teachers and dismiss others.

She said the Coventry agreement signed by five of the six teaching unions was "clear on pay, but short on the firm details".

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Richmond, Surrey  
ON: SUN, 29th Sept. 11.30am  
VIEWINGS from 10.30am day of sale  
**AUCTION 2**  
ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION  
Dartmouth House, 37 Charles St. W1  
(Adjacent to Chesterfield Hotel)  
ON: SUN, 28th Sept., 3pm  
VIEWINGS from 12 Noon day of sale  
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## Bar Council may ease rules to allow direct access to barristers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Proposals that the Bar should change its professional code of conduct to allow some clients to brief a barrister direct without going through a solicitor are shortly to be put before the Bar Council.

A committee of the council under Mr Nicholas Phillips, QC, is expected to recommend that other professionals, such as accountants, should be allowed direct access to barristers in cases before certain tribunals.

If adopted, the proposal would mean the first, if limited, incursion into one of the two main restrictive practices which characterize the legal profession.

By tradition a client cannot approach a barrister direct; he must go through a solicitor. There are very few exceptions to the rule, such as where a prisoner in the dock in a Crown Court wants to speak with counsel. Barristers may also receive instructions direct from people such as parliamentary agents, patent agents and foreign lawyers for work abroad.

In turn, solicitors are not allowed to appear as advocates in the higher courts, which are reserved for the Bar. The committee is likely to urge the Bar Council to consider a relaxation of the rules for work before tribunals where another profession already has a right of audience itself.

This means that where accountants, for instance, can appear before a tribunal they should be granted direct access to a barrister for work at those hearings.

But the committee will stipulate that the right of direct access would be granted only where a barrister was not obliged to do the kind of work done by solicitors, such as preparing statements.

A number of firms of accountants have for some time been keen to be able to deal direct with barristers rather than go through a solicitor in complex financial or tax matters.

Yesterday Mr Brian Singleton-Green, parliamentary and law committee secretary of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, said his members would welcome such a proposal.

"Many of our members, perhaps experts in taxation or VAT, need to get counsel's opinion for a case that may not even be going to come to court, to support what they intend to do."

"They probably understand more than the solicitor who simply has to act as a pointless intermediary and does not add anything to what is being done."

**Solicitors asked for ethnic details**  
All solicitors in England and Wales are being asked by the Law Society to give details of their ethnic origins when applying for their practising certificates this year.

The exercise, approved by the Law Society Council, is the first step in a policy of promoting equal opportunities in the profession.

It is intended to be a "one-off" with the aim of taking a "snapshot" of the practising profession as at October 1986 to assess its ethnic make-up.

By Robin Young  
About 250 GI brides who sailed from Britain in 1946 for a new life in the United States and Canada have returned to Southampton, the port they departed from, for a sentimental reunion.

In Southampton Guildhall, an air raid shelter canteen has been re-created as a rendezvous point for the brides. The welcome party was helped along with gifts of chocolates and a meal of spam and chips.

Today many of the brides will return to Tidworth, the barracks where many were "processed" and swore allegiance to the US flag before being able to join their husbands. In attendance will be Mrs Annabel Jarvis, who conducted many of the original interviews.

At least one GI bride, Mrs Margaret Conch, formerly of Crouch End, north London, now of Redmond, Washington, is back in Britain for the first time since she set sail to join her husband, Albert.

The brides will also attend a garden party at Broadlands, the Hampshire home of the late Lord Mountbatten of Burma, dancer to the music of the Herb Miller Orchestra, led by Glenn Miller's brother, and attend a concert by Dame Vera Lynn.

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent  
Luton Town will today meet the Football League about its expulsion from the Littlewoods Cup, but the First Division club will not relax its bar on visiting supporters in its attempt to beat hooliganism.

Mr Philip Carter, the Football League president, who telephoned Mr David Evans, the Luton chairman, yesterday, said: "We were delighted to hear that Luton are prepared to re-examine their position and bring an element of flexibility into the discussions."

The Football League management committee will meet Mr Evans at their headquarters at Lytham St Anne's.

**Air passenger record defies the terrorists**  
By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent  
More than six million passengers passed through Britain's seven main airports in August, making it the busiest month for air travel.

In spite of airline fears that the fall in the number of Americans visiting Britain would affect them hardest at the height of summer, the number of people travelling rose sharply.

Traffic rose by 4.6 per cent overall, with Heathrow, Gatwick and Edinburgh all setting records. But the boom in the number of passengers led to congestion at peak times.

The British Airports Authority said a record 122,117 passengers passed through Heathrow's four terminals on August 31.

Passengers using Heathrow to fly on United States routes fell by more than 30 per cent in May, June and July compared with the same months in 1985.

## Rugby PC jailed for biting off ear

By Jill Sherman

A policeman was jailed for six months yesterday for biting off part of the ear of a rival officer during a Welsh inter-force rugby match.

Richard Johnson was told by Judge Rutter at Cardiff Crown Court: "The violence you used was a dreadful example of football hooliganism."

Johnson, a Cardiff police wing forward, who has been suspended, sank his teeth into the right ear lobe of Mr Keith Jones, aged 40, the Newport police lock forward, during a match at the Gwent Constabulary sports ground in Cwmbran last November.

The court was told that Johnson, of Hurford Street, Maes-y-Coed, Pontypridd, Mid-Glamorgan, had to be restrained by fellow officers as he and Mr Jones exchanged punches.

During the trial, Mr Jones said he felt Johnson bite right through his ear lobe as the pair clashed after a line-out near the Newport 22-metre line.

In his defence, Johnson claimed that Mr Jones struck the first blow, punching him in the head after the line-out. Johnson said he could not have bitten through the lobe because he was wearing a gumshield.

Dr David Whitaker, forensic dentist, told the jury of tests he had carried out on the ear of a dead pig which was similar in structure to the human ear.

He found he was able to tear off the lobe with a single wrench, even when wearing a gumshield.

Johnson's report yesterday said that the prosecution alleged that PC Jones "twice punched his opponent and gouged his eye." In fact it was Johnson who had alleged this.

**Luton to meet league on competition ban**  
By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent  
Luton Town will today meet the Football League about its expulsion from the Littlewoods Cup, but the First Division club will not relax its bar on visiting supporters in its attempt to beat hooliganism.

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**A Portsmouth football supporter has lost a £200 claim against Oxford United in Oxford County Court for breach of contract.** Mr Michael Walker, aged 39, of The Keep, Portchester, Hampshire, claimed the club sold him seats at its Manor Ground where his view was impaired by an anti-hooligan fence.

The meeting was arranged during talks yesterday between Mr Richard Tracey, Minister for Sport, and Football League and Football Association officials.

Unlike the league, the Littlewoods Cup rules state that 25 per cent of tickets must be offered to the visiting club.

Mr Michael Walker, aged 39, of The Keep, Portchester, Hampshire, claimed the club sold him seats at its Manor Ground where his view was impaired by an anti-hooligan fence.

Dr Pinching said that one of his patients, who was living in central Africa had been attacked by bandits during a raid. "She was given four units of blood and now has the Aids virus."

In some circumstances after a minor accident, he said it might be more practical to fly home or to refuse a blood transfusion.

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In the new brochure leisure seekers are told about Manchester's urban heritage park, the transport museums of the "motor city" of Coventry, Liverpool's waterfront renaissance, Stoke's famous pottery and the heritage attractions of Bradford which so far has been one of the most successful among old industrial areas in attracting tourists.

Cash for the venture raised by the cities has been matched pound for pound by the English Tourist Board.

## Spam and chips for GI bride reunion



Mr and Mrs Albert Couch at Gatwick yesterday (Photograph: Peter Trievnor) and in 1946 on honeymoon in Southampton.

By Robin Young

About 250 GI brides who sailed from Britain in 1946 for a new life in the United States and Canada have returned to Southampton, the port they departed from, for a sentimental reunion.

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any criminal or civil liability was involved in Adam Bithell's death.

The jury was told how in seven years Mr and Mrs Bithell lost three children to the cot death syndrome. Their daughter, Clare, died in 1978 when she was eight months old and their son, Ian, born a year later, survived for just 19 days.

The couple's third child, Andrew, was monitored in hospital for a month after his birth in February 1981, but he too died just two weeks after being allowed home.

When Mrs Bithell became pregnant a fourth time, the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, a charitable organization formed in 1971 by bereaved parents, put her in touch with Professor Hamish Simpson, head of paediatrics at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Mrs Bithell left her home in Wrexham and moved into a flat at the hospital and once Adam was born his condition was monitored round the clock by machinery flown in from the United States.

## Family's fourth cot death

## Suffocation query on baby

A second inquest jury sat yesterday on the orders of a High Court judge to determine whether a baby aged seven months had been suffocated, or was the fourth successive cot death tragedy to beset his parents.

Parental and political outrage greeted the verdict of the first inquest jury which decided that Adam Bithell had suffocated and returned an open verdict at Wrexham in November 1984.

It had been told by Dr Donald Wayne, Home Office pathologist, that the real cause of a large proportion of the annual 1,000 infant mortalities blamed on cot death was suffocation or smothering.

After representations by many parents who had lost children through cot deaths Mr Justice McCulloch quashed the original jury verdict and ordered a second inquest.

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## Portfolio Gold—Sons will share in winnings

A Birmingham housewife is the sole winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mrs Linda Ward, aged 42, from Harborne in Birmingham, said she could not believe her luck.

"I used to be about 10 numbers out every day. I just could not believe it when I realized that my overall total matched The Times' Portfolio Gold dividend."

Mrs Ward, who has two sons, said that she would give some of the prize money to them.

"But as we are moving house soon, most of the winnings will go towards redecorating the new house," she said.

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

**Morley guilty of theft**  
Stephen Morley, yesterday convicted at Derby Crown Court, of stealing £10,000 given to him to invest by a client, and of two charges of attempting to obtain a total of £2,400.

Sentence was deferred for reports on Morley, aged 23, of College Road, Dulwich, south-east London, who had pleaded not guilty to all three charges. The £10,000 was repaid by his parents, Eric and Julia Morley.

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# Withdrawal from nuclear power gets full backing

The planned phasing out of all nuclear power, an end to the commissioning of further nuclear installations, and an immediate start on the decommissioning of Magnox power stations were backed overwhelmingly by the Liberal Assembly at Easbourne yesterday.

But delegates agreed in the energy debate to amendments making clear they were referring to power stations using nuclear fission (splitting the atom) and would allow a continuing and increasing

Anybody thinking of buying British Gas shares should know that under an Alliance government he or she would not be allowed to get a windfall profit by exploiting the consumer, Mr Malcolm Bruce, the party's energy spokesman, said during question time on the environment.

The agreed motion also proposed:

- Programmes for energy conservation and renewable sources of energy;
- Construction of the Severn barrage and combined heat and power stations;
- The replacement of Nirex and all bodies charged with the disposal of nuclear waste with a public corporation with a duty to protect the environment;

- The "abandonment" of present plans for shallow burial of nuclear waste and the renunciation of marine dumping;
- The public disclosure of research findings, policy options and public inquiries in all areas affected by proposals for disposal of nuclear waste, with objectors receiving public funding.

Mr George Ferguson, parliamentary candidate for Bristol West, who moved the motion, strongly criticized Lord Marshall of Goring, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, as "Maggie's man, prejudiced and obsessive".

"He is the man who treats all objectors to nuclear power as fools. He has lost his right to claim to be an objective scientist. We should give him his notice now."

Mr Ferguson said he was not proposing a highly accelerated phasing out of nuclear power stations. They needed a responsible, planned phasing out over plenty of time. But the decommissioning of Magnox power stations must start as early as possible.

Dr Margaret Joachim, parliamentary candidate for Epsom and Ewell, moving the amendments, said nuclear fission was now at the research stage. But, unlike nuclear fusion, it did not produce vast amounts of radioactivity.

Mr Bill Bradshaw, of Wantage, said nuclear power was the only source ultimately capable of replacing fossil fuels. It was probably less environmentally damaging than burning fossil fuels.

Without nuclear power prices of fossil fuels would rise and poor countries would go without electricity.

Mr Malcolm Bruce, MP for Gordon, said the claims of the nuclear industry to be clean and to produce electricity more cheaply than any other means were not true. He called for a moratorium on the further development of nuclear power.

Mr Alan Sherwell, chairman of the energy panel, said those favouring nuclear power argued that it would be needed in the Third World. But those countries needed small, localized energy sources, which were precisely the alternatives the party wished to develop in this country.

Lord Ezra, party spokesman on energy in the House of Lords and a former chairman of the National Coal Board, said discussion of a comprehensive energy policy did not go wide enough.

A clear energy policy should be based on securing maximum efficiency of energy in use, and the minimum adverse impact on the environment.

He advocated setting up a department responsible for energy efficiency with the additional task of ensuring that adequate heating standards were available to the aged, infirm and the poor.

Mr Trevor Jones, parliamentary candidate for West Dorset, said there was no thought of safe method of producing electricity. It would be folly for the Alliance prematurely to close down an industry.



Mr Alan Beith (left), Mr Simon Hughes and Mr Malcolm Bruce were among the speakers in yesterday's debates (Photographers: John Manning and Harry Kerr).

## POLICY DOCUMENT

### Getting the Alliance's act together

The Liberal Party assembly yesterday considered the joint Alliance consultative document, *Partnership for Progress*, made clear there was lots of it they liked and lots they did not, got assurances there would be further scope for more suggestions, and finally carried a motion welcoming it. It was part of the process, as one speaker put it, of the Alliance getting its act together.

The reservations of the assembly were politely expressed in an amendment from the Association of Liberal Councillors that the draft of the "consultative" document should reflect more clearly the

policies and principles of the Alliance on the ground, particularly towards meeting the urgent social and economic needs of urban communities.

That was carried as well as an instruction to the party's policy committee to seek agreement with the Social Democratic Party on a revised final document.

The motion that the assembly approved stated that the document should form the basis for the policies on which the next Alliance programme for government would be drawn up. The assembly authorized the policy committee, in the light of the debate, to seek agreement with the SDP

on a final document for publication.

Despite the reservations expressed during the debate, there was considerable praise at the progress made in forging Alliance policy.

Mr Alan Watson, parliamentary candidate for Richmond and Barnes, was particularly loudly applauded when he declared that the single most urgent challenge to the Alliance at the moment was "Get your act together".

The public recognized "the decline of the economy, the shrinking of the social services, the erosion of tolerance and rise of violence. It deeply disturbs them. They want the

Alliance to work; they want it to win."

Mr Richard Pine, parliamentary candidate for Broadgreen and deputy leader of the Alliance group on Liverpool City Council, said those fighting inner-city seats wanted to see the part of the document on the inner cities strengthened to reflect their experience.

Mr David Penhaligon, MP for Truro, said an incomes strategy was important. It was no good people expressing concern about the poor, unemployment and the lack of training if at the same time they made pay deals of 8, 9 or 10 per cent.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Sanction motion wins support

The assembly, in an emergency motion moved by Mr Alan Beith, MP, its foreign affairs spokesman, reaffirmed support for the imposition of comprehensive mandatory sanctions against South Africa, and its belief that sanctions presented the last opportunity for peaceful change.

The motion regretted that the meeting between Mr Oliver Tambo, ANC president, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, failed to change "the obdurate and immovable intransigence of the Government in blocking moves for effective mandatory sanctions to isolate South Africa".

Mr Beith said Mrs Margaret Thatcher had taken every possible step to thwart or undermine all the attempts so far made to apply real pressure on the South African Government.

The European Community was dithering over a very limited package of sanctions and it was a cause of distress to Liberals that Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, with whom they had worked for many years in the cause of European unity, should be the spokesman for German government opposition to a ban on coal imports from South Africa.

Mr Jim Forder, Nuffield College, Oxford University, and Union of Liberal Students, said that destroying the South African economy would lead only to increased unemployment among blacks and that would mean starvation.

Mr Nicholas Winch, Bristol East, said that the EEC sanctions package was nothing more than a token gesture.

Mr Peter Wells, Kensington, unsuccessfully sought reference back of the emergency motion to the party council. He said the emergency motion was bland and anodyne.

Mr Beith said serious issues were at stake on which they must reaffirm their commitment. Action was needed now and they could not simply wait for Liberal Party procedures.

## COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

David Steel can be certain of a warm, probably a rapturous, reception when he speaks to the assembly today. Having thrown him into the ditch earlier in the week, the delegates will now want to reassure him that there was nothing personal in it. But the applause will not be able to drown the knowledge that he is facing the most severe political challenge since he became leader of the party.

The challenge is not to his position as leader but to the purpose for which he holds the leadership. Those MPs who undermined his strategy with effective speeches in the defence debate, Simon Hughes and Michael Meadowcroft, have not in fact enhanced their standing in the party as might have been expected.

They may have further endeared themselves to the radical rank and file, but they have lost ground among their parliamentary colleagues and have seen many candidates who see their chances of sitting in the next House of Commons slipping away. There is nobody who could threaten Mr Steel's hold on office in this Parliament even if he wished to do so.

### Ambition for a share of power

But just to be Liberal leader has never been enough for Mr Steel. He has always had the ambition of leading the party back from the political wilderness to a share of power, and this ambition has received a number of setbacks this week.

It is not only that the gap between Liberals and Social Democrats has been widened. The fitness of the Liberal Party for serious political combat has been brought into question and Mr Steel's personal authority has been diminished.

His first task today should be to set about restoring that authority. This matters for two reasons.

The political appeal of the Alliance rests more than either Liberal or Social Democratic activists are happy to acknowledge upon the personalities of the two Davids. Both of them may from time to time irritate members of both parties - and Dr Owen is especially prone to upset Liberals - but if either of them is cut down to size too much by his own followers the Alliance will suffer.

The other reason why Mr Steel needs to reestablish his grip is at least as important. The Liberals are engaged in an extraordinarily complex exercise. Unlike the Conservatives or Labour, they do not simply have to determine their policy and ask the electorate to vote them into office.

They have to coordinate policy with their Social Democratic allies, to persuade the electorate to support them even if there is no realistic prospect of the two of them forming a government on their own and at the same time to position themselves for difficult negotiations in a hung Parliament that is the summit of their reasonable ambitions.

Such an operation could be conducted successfully only by a party acting as an effective fighting unit. The problem with the Liberals is that they so often behave like a political debating society. They tend to congratulate themselves on the quality of their discussions, even when the wisdom of the decisions leaves something to be desired.

### Debating society not enough

There is undeniable charm in such an attitude. But political battles, especially complex battles which require the capacity to manoeuvre under pressure, are won by parties that operate more like armies than debating societies.

As a first step, the Liberal MPs are likely to impose a measure of collective responsibility upon themselves soon after Parliament resumes. The worst travails of this week would have been avoided if such a rule had been in operation by now.

But organizational changes will not be enough. Mr Steel will have to strike a careful balance if he is to assert his leadership without appearing undemocratic and a bad loser. The Liberals will not recover from this disastrous week unless Mr Steel recovers control of the party, and he will not recover that control unless he is more prepared to spell out the brutal realities of the choices before it.

## WOMEN

### Righting balance of power

The most unjust aspect of the old centres of power, wealth and influence was their systematic discrimination against women, Mrs Julie Horton, a member of the Liberal working group on the status of women, said when she successfully moved approval of an Alliance document, *Freedom and Choice for Women*.

Among its proposals were a call for equal treatment of women in tax and benefit systems.

Mrs Emma Morgan, Somerset and Frome, said there were women doctors and judges but even then they did not get the response of their male counterparts.

Mrs John Alexander, of Haringey, said the document was a betrayal of all mothers and grandmothers who had fought and struggled for equality. It was bland, full of platitudes and contained not enough action.

## FARMING

### Assembly fights for the countryside vote

A wide-ranging policy motion designed to enable the Alliance to capture the rural vote was passed by the assembly.

Mr Christopher Wainwright, who came so close to capturing West Derbyshire in the by-election in May, reminded Liberals that the Alliance was second to the Conservatives in 272 parliamentary constituencies and that the Labour Party did not hold a rural seat in the whole of England.

He was one of a procession of speakers who condemned the decline in rural life under the present Government.

Considerable concern was expressed about the plight of farmers who found themselves in considerable debt and the banks came under fire for being insufficiently helpful in enabling young people to start in farming.

Mr John Barnett, parliamentary candidate for Torridge and West Devon, offered strong support for the motion's proposal for an agricultural bank. He said it would help farmers who were on the interest rate treadmill and enable new entrants to get into farming.

Mr Paul Sample, editor of *Liberal News* and son of a Wiltshire farmer, said that, although the price of agricultural land had fallen sharply, it was harder for young farmers and new entrants to get financial backing.

Mr Richard Livey, MP for Brecon and Radnor and party spokesman on agriculture, successfully moved the policy motion, which stated that eligibility for price support must be limited and set out how the emphasis of EEC policy could be shifted and how savings could be used.

Various ways of increasing opportunities for young farmers were advocated.

An amendment designed to encourage large farms to release land to let as small start-up units was carried.

Mr Jack Alesha, chairman of the Liberal agricultural panel and chairman of Wiltshire County Council, strongly argued against that idea, however, and the assembly backed him by rejecting it.

He said it would be illogical to suggest using something that the party wanted to be abolished.

Mr Livey said policy on commodity prices could not be open-ended and they must be prepared to give small and medium-size farms direct income support.

Mr Steven Morris, parliamentary candidate for Leominster, advocated grants and low-interest loans for the creation of viable farm units.

Mrs Linda Seale, parliamentary candidate for Devon, said their policy represented a partnership between government, farmer and consumer.

There was laughter when she said that for the grain farmers of East Anglia, crop rotation meant barley followed by barley followed by a world cruise.

## FOOTBALL

### League is asked to reconsider

The Football League was asked to reconsider its decision to expel Luton Town from the Littlewood Cup because of the club's ban on visiting supporters.

An emergency motion carried by the assembly regretted the decision and supported "the brave attempt by Luton Town Football Club to eliminate the violence which has marred the good name of football in Luton and nationally".

It noted that the Luton experiment had been totally successful.

Mr David Franks, a Luton borough councillor, said the background to the issue was the urban terrorism that took place every Saturday in areas around grounds.



Your genial host, Mr Alan Watson: "Get your act together".

### Steel prepares a rough ride

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Liberal pressure groups were engaged yesterday in a battle for Mr David Steel's ear as he prepared his crucial conference speech for today.

The party's president-elect, Mr Des Wilson, was urging Mr Steel to be conciliatory and to respect the feelings of the party showed in rejecting his line on defence. So were the Association of Liberal Councillors and the candidates' association.

But Mr Steel was preparing a rough ride for the party and was prepared to shed a few passengers in his determination to sweep away the muddle and achieve some clarity.

What was clear in the continuing fallout from the public relations shambles of the defence debate was that this was probably the last Liberal Assembly of its kind.

The defence dispute is likely to have profound consequences for Mr Steel's leadership, for the constitution of the party and for the controversy over a post-election merger with the SDP.

Complaints were flying thick and fast from Liberal activists that, while they respect their leader's ability and public appeal, he is out of touch with his members.

One said: "If David Steel would only form a coalition with his own party he would be unstoppable".

The troubles came, they say, because Mr Steel remains closeted with his entourage, by which they mostly mean his indispensable chief adviser, Mr Richard Holme.

They complain that Mr William Wallace, formerly a close adviser, who did communicate with activist groups, has been excluded from the inner circles since the leaking of his report a year ago in which he said with total accuracy that the Alliance was insufficiently prepared for government.

What is clear is that the party leadership now lacks men who can manage the party, a task that was performed a few years ago with sound common sense and unflinching good humour by Mr Geoffrey Evans and Mr Geoff Torloff, both now peers.

But now that the Liberals have not a single MP but nineteen the cheerful anarchy that has prevailed for years can no longer be afforded.

Now that there are 2,000 people instead of 300 turning up to the Liberal Assembly they cannot afford to allow

just any party member who wants to, and who can find the £18 registration fee (only £5 for the unemployed), to vote in a crucial debate.

Mr Steel and his chief whip, Mr David Alton, are now to impose collective responsibility on their fellow MPs. There are also plans to change the whole structure of the assembly, to make those who attend it representative of the party nationwide.

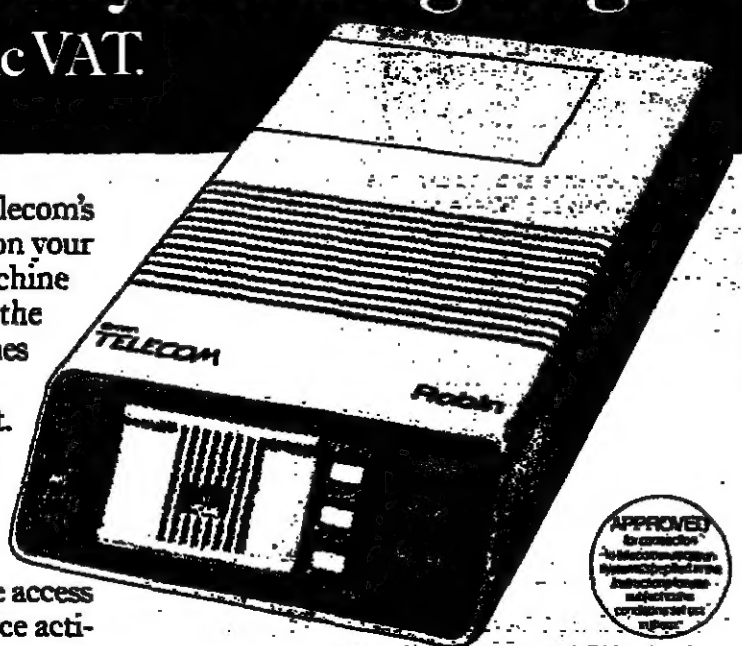
Mr Steel is attracted by the idea of having his party, like the SDP, pass policy motions that are the result of deliberation by expert committees.

But it is all much too late. And Liberal activists point out that if the party chiefs are to change the ways of the assembly then they will insist that the party leader should lose his right of veto over policy.

### Today's agenda

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said Mr Paul Tyler, party chairman, will address the assembly at its closing session this afternoon. Debates today will be on the Liberal youth campaign, the relationship between central and local government, penal policy, and local Liberals.

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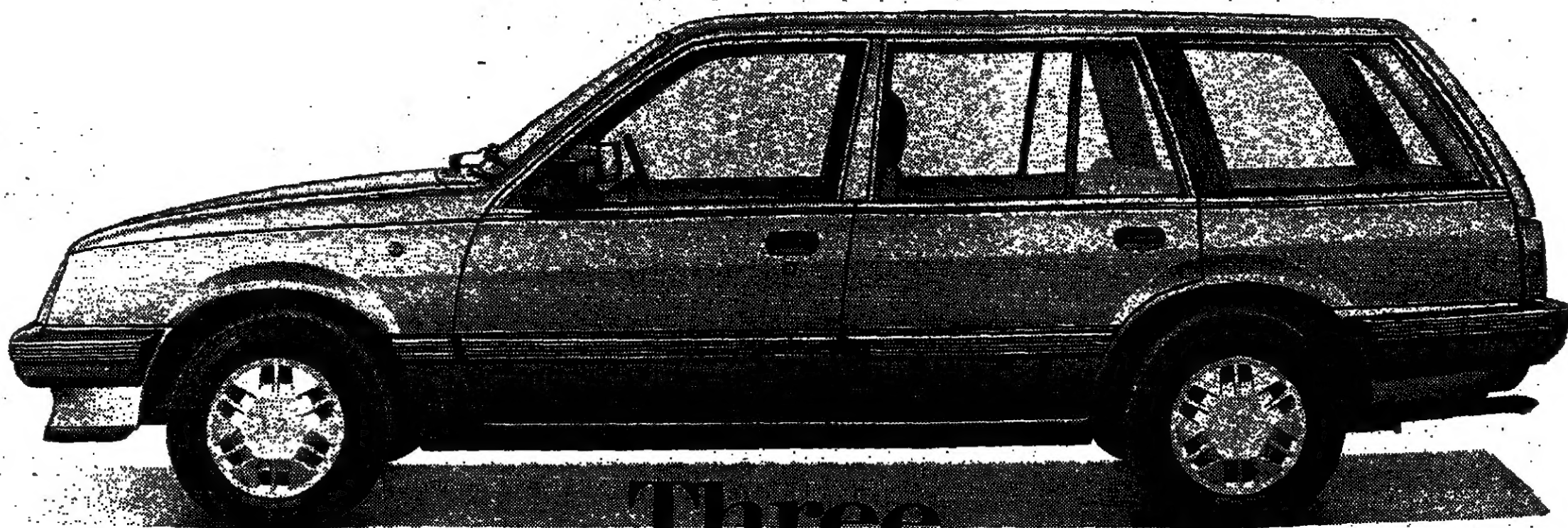
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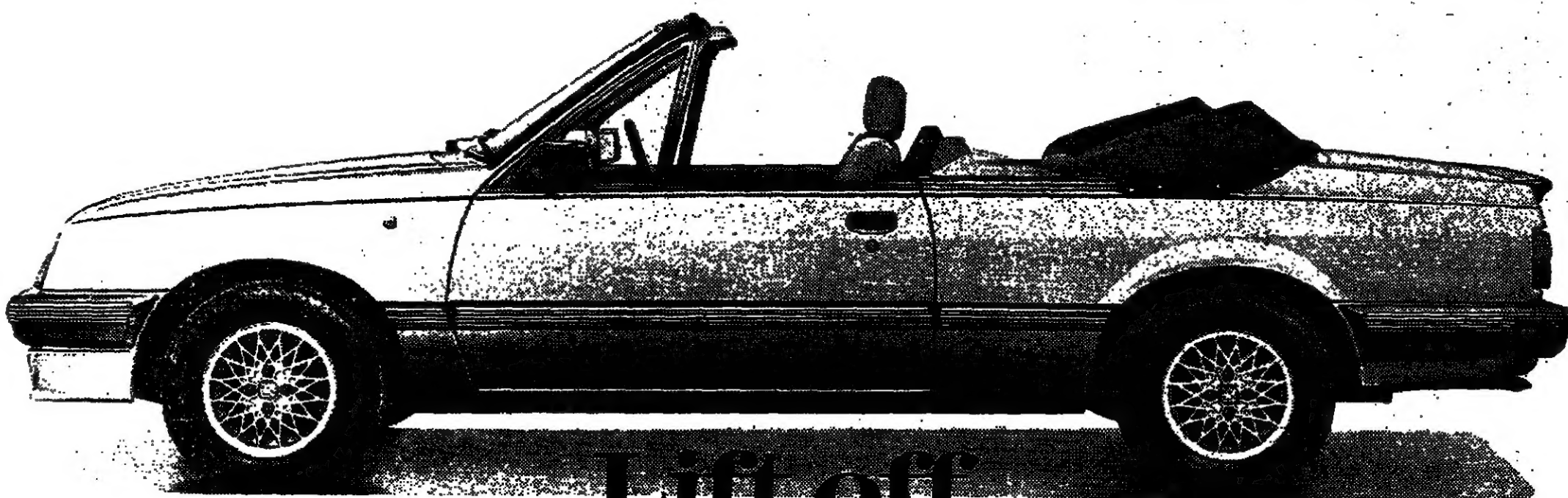
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## Success for Gorbachov initiative

# Resumption of border talks adds to thaw in Sino-Soviet relations

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Attempts to heal the 25-year rift between the two largest communist states received a significant boost yesterday with the announcement that talks on border disputes between China and the Soviet Union are to be resumed after a break of nearly nine years.

The decision to reconvene next year talks about an area which prompted clashes between the Chinese and Soviet armies in 1969 and 1970 was taken during a meeting at the United Nations between the two Foreign Ministers, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze and Mr Wu Xueqian.

Official reports of the meeting said that the two ministers had held extensive talks on normalizing relations and on international issues. The meeting was seen as fresh evidence of the Sino-Soviet diplomatic thaw prompted by a keynote speech delivered in July by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Kremlin leader.

Senior Western diplomats said last night that the decision to resume at deputy foreign minister level the boundary negotiations which broke down in June 1978 was certain to have been prompted by Mr Gorbachov's July initiative. In a speech delivered in Vladivostok, he offered the

along the Chinese shore, thus claiming a number of islands in the river for itself. China's grievances were increased by the fact that the Ussuri river, on the eastern frontier, free-flow regarded as its territory.

The border talks are seen by quickly changed course, detaching pieces of bank to form new islands which Moscow observers of Sino-Soviet relations as further quickening the pace of rapprochement between the two communist giants. This had already increased significantly earlier this month with the successful visit to Peking by Mr Nikolai Talyzin, a Soviet Deputy Prime Minister.

For a number of years, the Chinese have listed three main obstacles to improved relations with the Soviet Union: the continuing Soviet presence in Afghanistan, military concentrations along the Chinese border, and Soviet backing for the Vietnamese forces in Cambodia.

Recent Soviet moves are seen by observers as having shown willingness to address the first two of these. Earlier this month, Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, said that he would agree to a summit with Mr Gorbachov, if the Soviet Union took "solid steps" towards getting Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Cambodia.

Although such a move is regarded as difficult, Soviet sources have hinted that a Sino-Soviet summit remains high on Mr Gorbachov's list of priorities.

The signs of an impending Sino-Soviet thaw have caused some concern in US diplomatic circles, but no Western observers here expect a return to the closeness developed in the 1950s.

## Howe tribute to Nato

New York — Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that encouraging signs of movement in US-Soviet arms control talks were a tribute to Nato solidarity in the face of Moscow's persistent efforts to drive a wedge between the US and its European partners (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes).

Effective transatlantic consultations had contributed to

the failure of Moscow's strategy despite the Soviet Union's tenacious attempts to mastermind a rift, he said.

This had left the Russians no choice but to move from the propaganda arena to the negotiating table, he told a press conference here after almost a week of United Nations debate dominated by relations between East and West.

## Comecon meeting applauded

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The completion of three days of talks this week between the EEC and Comecon, the Soviet bloc economic organization, was hailed in Brussels yesterday as a further step towards reducing East-West tensions.

"Given the current East-West problems, anything — like the Stockholm agreement — which promotes dialogue is welcome," one EEC official said. But Commission sources warned that the EEC was only at the start of lengthy and complex contacts with Comecon and was "proceeding with caution".

As the EEC negotiating team, led by Mr John Maslen, head of the EEC Department for Relations with Eastern Europe, returned from Geneva, it emerged that one of the main obstacles to agreement between the trading blocs is the EEC's insistence that any joint political declaration must include a clause referring to West Berlin as an integral part of West Germany.

But officials stressed that the status of Berlin was only one sticking point and that the Twelve remain open to any agreement likely to limit the EEC's right to deal with East European nations on a bilateral basis.

Mr Willy de Clercq, the EEC Commissioner for External Relations, maintains that Comecon is dominated by Moscow, has no common commercial policy and is not comparable to the EEC in aims or structure.

Mr de Clercq, who held a series of talks with East European ministers at the Gatt conference in Uruguay and at the United Nations this week, yesterday praised Comecon's "positive attitude to the normalization process", but stressed the EEC's bilateral ties in Eastern Europe.

An exchange of letters on this point between Mr de Clercq and Mr Vyacheslav Stychov, the Comecon Secretary General, has only partially satisfied Brussels.

The EEC-Comecon dialogue, inaugurated under Mr Mikhail Gorbachov after years in the doldrums, could eventually lead to Soviet diplomatic recognition of the EEC.

## Chernobyl aftermath Experts warned of 'cosmetic' treaties

From Pearce Wright, Science Editor, Vienna

The Italian delegate told the world's most powerful nations yesterday that their attempts at developing standards to make nuclear power safer was more of a cosmetic exercise than a practical proposition.

The conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, called to devise a way to avoid any repetition of the Chernobyl disaster, has proposed two conventions. And the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain, France and China, with other countries, have agreed to sign them.

But Signor Malerba Zanone, Italy's Minister for Industry, pointed the conference to what he called "glaring deficiencies" in the proposed conventions.

The first treaty should ensure better early warning to neighbouring countries after any nuclear accident; the second would call on mutual

## Greens hold their own nuclear safety rally

Vienna — One of Vienna's most famous landmarks, the giant ferris wheel made famous in the film *The Third Man*, was draped yesterday with a banner calling for the international abandonment of nuclear power (Pearce Wright writes).

Significantly, Austria is the first industrial country to reverse its nuclear energy policy. The Government signed an order yesterday for the dismantling of its controversial nuclear power plant at Zwentendorf, completed in 1978 at a cost of £520 million. It was never used.

But the event in the Prater carnival park was to publicize the "other" nuclear conference in Vienna this week, a special assembly of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The park meeting was arranged by an alliance of the "green" organizations to allow the "human voice" of the casualties of nuclear energy to be heard.

It is in the form of a tribunal at which the "victims" of nuclear power tell of the trauma which, they say, goes unrecognized at formal conferences dominated by technical detail.

## French to stay part of Unifil

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

M. Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, said his Government had no plans to withdraw the French contingent serving with the United Nations Truce Supervision Force in Lebanon (Unifil), despite a declared campaign by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah militia to drive UN peacekeeping forces out of Lebanon.

M Chirac laid down certain conditions for Unifil's continued presence in Lebanon, including a complete Israeli pullout. Israel has already said it would not abandon its security belt on the ground that Unifil was unable to sufficiently protect Israel's northern border.

M Chirac said France had no proof that any government was behind the recent wave of terrorist bombings in Paris, saying that he believed one group, perhaps acting in concert with another, was responsible for the attacks.

He said he was "allergic" to the idea of negotiating with terrorists and denied reports that France had entered into discussions earlier this year with a terrorist group believed to be responsible for the recent bombings. M Chirac refused to say that Iran was behind the attacks on Unifil.

GRENOBLE: A group of 233 French soldiers left France yesterday to join a logistical support unit of Unifil.

There were several hundred mourners, many of them too young to remember the 1956 uprising, at the recent Budapest funeral of Mr Ferenc Donath. He was a doughty reformer, part of the entourage of the disgraced and lamented Prime Minister, Mr Imre Nagy.

Unlike Mr Nagy, who was executed in 1958, Mr Donath survived the revolution; did time in jail and emerged as a useful conduit between the fringe opposition and more cautious reform economists.

Among the graveside eulogies there was a particularly telling one from a dissident: "We hope that the time has now passed when funerals are the only occasion one can speak freely."

Well, yes, that time has indeed passed in Hungary, rightly praised as the most relaxed country in the Soviet bloc. But how free is free? There is technically no censor in Hungary, but the Communist Party dominates the senior editorial staff of all publications and has instituted a system of post-censorship with detailed analysis of what should not have been printed.

Reprimands, warnings, dismissals and closures are part of everyday publishing life. A television news director was reprimanded the other day for showing too much of the British royal wedding; the coverage, though better than in the rest of East Europe, was not exactly comprehensive.

Mentions of Trotsky, Afghanistan and criticism of the Soviet Union are off-limits. For the most part editorial boards and writers exercise self-censorship on these subjects; that is, they ignore them. But there are certain grey areas and, if an enterprising writer slips through a reference to a Soviet historical figure, somebody somewhere — perhaps a vigilant reader in the Soviet Embassy — will make it an issue. Requests are held.



A policeman grabbing Frédéric Oriach as he tries to declare his innocence to journalists in the Jardin du Luxembourg.

## Bombing suspect seized in Paris park

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Frédéric Oriach, a suspected leader of the extreme-left group Action Directe, was arrested yesterday as he was about to hold a press conference in the Jardin du Luxembourg in Paris.

The day before, five of his friends, all of French nationality, had been arrested on the orders of the examining magistrate investigating the recent bombings in Paris. The five, who were said to be "able to bring aid and assistance to terrorists", were still in police custody last night.

It had been reported that M Oriach, who was released from prison in April after having served five years for membership of an "association of

criminals", was on the run. It was to prove that he had in no way gone into hiding that he promptly called the public press conference.

He was jumped on by plainclothes policemen and roughly dragged away, with a bery of journalists and cameramen in hot pursuit still bombarding him with questions.

M Oriach shouted: "I'm being used as a scapegoat because the police are incapable of doing their work. I am a perfectly legal, Palestinian militant."

"I am in no way clandestine. The police knew where to find me. I have always been against all indiscriminate terrorist attacks."

He has always maintained that he is not a member of Action Directe, which has

links with the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction (Far), the group believed to be behind the Paris bombings. But there is no doubt that he is a founder of an extreme-left group which was to become one of the main constituents of Action Directe.

M Denis Baudouin, the Prime Minister's spokesman, said yesterday that the Government was still convinced that the track leading to the Abdallah brothers was the right one in the bombings investigation.

The French police have put out "wanted" notices for four brothers of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, the alleged Far leader, who is serving a four-year sentence in France, and for five other Far members.

Ever since eight of the nine turned up in northern Lebanon a week ago, the bombings in Paris have ceased.

M Baudouin vigorously denied newspaper claims that the Government had negotiated the release of Georges Abdallah. He also insisted that the Government had given no mission to Monsignor Hilarion Capocci, a Syrian-born former Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Jerusalem, who visited Abdallah on Monday.

Mr Capocci had met Abdallah at his own request, M Baudouin said. "It was up to Mr Capocci to see what he could do. There was no question of giving into blackmail or of envisaging any kind of bargain."

## Jet forced down in Zambia

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Zambia ordered a Portuguese aircraft, carrying 121 passengers and eight crew to land in Lusaka on Tuesday and held it on the ground for 18 hours, claiming it had violated Zambian airspace.

The plane, which had been flying from Maputo in Mozambique to Luanda in Angola, en route to Portugal, arrived in Lisbon yesterday. It was released after the Portuguese Ambassador in Lusaka appealed to the Zambian Foreign Minister. None of the passengers or crew had been harmed.

Zambia claimed that Portugal's state airline, Tap-Air Portugal, had failed to request permission to fly over the country. The Zambian Government declared its airspace a restricted area after a South African attack on the country several months ago.

Tap-Air and the Portuguese Foreign Ministry claim the airline presented a request in July. There had been no reply.

A second Tap-Air plane, which took off from Johannesburg for Lisbon on Wednesday, turned back when it received no reply from the control tower in Zambia to a request to fly over the country.

Political observers in Lisbon believe the action was taken in retaliation for Portugal's role in preventing the export of coal being included in EEC sanctions against South Africa.

## Pretoria cuts off line to the press

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The South African Government's Bureau for Information announced yesterday that it had decided the best way to improve the accuracy and quality of the service provided by its "media centre" in Pretoria was to close it down.

The bureau said the centre would close from today and telephone inquiries from the press would no longer be answered. In future, the bureau would reply only to inquiries received by telex, "and then only when in possession of all salient and verified facts".

Telephone replies to press queries would be given "only in exceptional cases, such as acts of terror". The bureau said it was taking this action because of press criticism of the accuracy of information it had been providing.

"It would appear that one of the main problems which has arisen in this regard has been the unavaluated transmission of information to the media as a result of telephone inquiries. It has sometimes happened that the initial reports received by the bureau have had to be amended as more accurate and evaluated information has become available."

The bureau said it decided to close its media centre on Friday, September 26, at 12.00 hours," the bureau said.

The centre was set up shortly after the declaration of the state of emergency on June 12, under the terms of which reporting of unrest and actions of the security forces is severely restricted.

Recently the bureau, whose ultimate boss is the Deputy Minister of Information, Mr Louis Nel, has been under fire for spending some 1.5 million rand (£462,000) of taxpayers' money on producing a "peace song", aimed at promoting racial harmony, to be aired on radio as a commercial.

Dr Boesak, who was jailed for three weeks in August and September last year and then released and charged with subversion under the Internal Security Act, is currently at large on bail of 20,000 rand (£6,150). The hearing of the case against him was adjourned last week until November 28.

## Church job for Boesak

Johannesburg — The rebel Dutch Reformed Church clergyman, Dr Allan Boesak, has been elected Moderator of the Mission Church, the branch of the church which ministers mainly to South Africa's Coloured community (Michael Hornsby writes).

Since 1982 Dr Boesak has been president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, but until now had been denied the top job in his own church by conservative Col-

oured colleagues and seconded white ministers who disapprove of his political activism.

Dr Boesak, who was jailed for three weeks in August and September last year and then released and charged with subversion under the Internal Security Act, is currently at large on bail of 20,000 rand (£6,150). The hearing of the case against him was adjourned last week until November 28.

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## Killer of British teenagers gets life

Hong Kong (Reuters) — A Chinese youth aged 16 who admitted murdering two British teenagers on a remote Hong Kong hillside was sentenced yesterday to indefinite detention.

The youth, who was not named because of his age, pleaded guilty to killing Nicola Myers, aged 18, and Kenneth McBride, 17, on April 30, 1985.

Four others have been charged with murder and rape in connection with the case.

## Havana expels agency chiefs

Havana (AFP) — Cuba has expelled the bureau chiefs here of Reuters and Agence France-Presse news agencies for having quoted a human rights activist.

Mr Robert Powell of Reuters and Mr Noel Lortholais of AFP had sent dispatches quoting Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz, vice-president of the unofficial Cuban Human Rights Committee.

## Cost of fraud

Peking (Reuters) — Huang Yuhui, a high-ranking Chinese Communist Party official in Guangxi province, was executed for leading a group which earned the equivalent of more than £34,000 in fraud and bribery, Peking Radio reported.

## Climbers' ban

Kathmandu (AFP) — Two mountaineers, a Swiss and a Pole, have been banned from climbing in the Nepalese Himalayas for five years after an illegal scaling of the 26,903 ft Mount Cho Oyu.

## Party millions

Peking (AFP) — The Chinese Communist Party has admitted 6.3 million new members since 1981, bringing total membership to 44 million.

## Brain drain

Washington (AP) — The active ingredient in marijuana, called THC, causes a loss of brain cells in rats similar to that attributed to ageing, raising fresh concern about the illegal drug, according to Dr Philip Landfield of Wake Forest University, North Carolina.



Signor Sandro Pertini, the former President of Italy (above) celebrated his 90th birthday yesterday. The Pope joined leading politicians in congratulating him.

## Live surgery

Moscow (Reuters) — Soviet surgeons gingerly but successfully removed a primed grenade lodged in a soldier wounded while serving in Afghanistan.

## Gorilla dies

New York (AP) — Carolyn, the oldest gorilla in captivity, died of natural causes in the Bronx Zoo at the age of 47. She stayed at the Central Park Zoo from 1943 until 1982 when she was moved to the Bronx Zoo.

## Aid call

San Jose (Reuters) — Costa Rica asked for international help to deal with the growing number of Nicaraguan refugees entering the country daily to escape the bloodshed and economic hardships. Only about 21,000 of the estimated 150,000 Nicaraguans in Costa Rica are recognized refugees.

## Censorless Hungary finds freedom has limits

From Roger Boyes, Budapest

There were several hundred mourners, many of them too young to remember the 1956 uprising, at the recent Budapest funeral of Mr Ferenc Donath. He was a doughty reformer, part of the entourage of the disgraced and lamented Prime Minister, Mr Imre Nagy.

Unlike Mr Nagy, who was executed in 1958, Mr Donath survived the revolution; did time in jail and emerged as a useful conduit between the fringe opposition and more cautious reform economists.

Among the graveside eulogies there was a particularly telling one from a dissident: "We hope that the time has now passed when funerals are the only occasion one can speak freely."

Well, yes, that time has indeed passed in Hungary, rightly praised as the most relaxed country in the Soviet bloc. But how free is free? There is technically no censor in Hungary, but the Communist Party dominates the senior editorial staff of all publications and has instituted a system of post-censorship with detailed analysis of what should not have been printed.

Reprimands, warnings, dismissals and closures are part of everyday publishing life. A television news director was reprimanded the other day for showing too much of the British royal wedding; the coverage, though better than in the rest of East Europe, was not exactly comprehensive.

Mentions of Trotsky, Afghanistan and criticism of the Soviet Union are off-limits. For the most part editorial boards and writers exercise self-censorship on these subjects; that is, they ignore them. But there are certain grey areas and, if an enterprising writer slips through a reference to a Soviet historical figure, somebody somewhere — perhaps a vigilant reader in the Soviet Embassy — will make it an issue. Requests are held.

The latest victim of post-censorship is a writer and playwright, Mr Istvan Csarika. Earlier this year Mr Csarika made a tour of the US, Canada and West Germany.

Radio Free Europe broadcast to Hungary one of Mr Csarika's more critical lectures. At the same time the writer had a volume of essays published in New York.

Although obviously sceptical about socialism and concerned with the moral health of Hungary, the lectures show a deep feeling for his native country.

That was not good enough for the Hungarian Deputy Minister of Culture, Mr Gyorgy Vajda: "Editorial offices will not publish work by Istvan Csarika until a further decision is taken..."

The authorities have also just suspended the literary magazine *Tiszatáj* and are carrying out an investigation into a "series of errors" committed by the editors. These seem to include the publication of poems by Gaspar Nagy, dismissed in 1984 as secretary of the Writers' Union.

The magazine has been publishing good, agonized verses, larded with *Weltschmerz* and references to Hungarian suffering. Its most crushing defeat, 6-8, against the Soviet Union. Perhaps there is a lesson there somewhere.

There are some Hungarians who argue that a censor — an intelligent, sensitive one — might be preferable to the current state of affairs.

Self- and post-censorship is a lottery in which there are no prizes, only penalties.

Just as nobody would think of writing about the Soviet troops in Hungary, so nobody would about yet another football corruption scandal in Hungary this spring. It was the classic story of money for goals, but coming just before Hungary's participation in the World Cup, reporters restrained themselves in the national interest.



## US forces in Honduras on alert

## Contra rebels believed ready for big push into Nicaragua

From Philip Jacobson, Honduras

A few weeks before the Reagan Administration begins pumping substantial new funds into supporting the Nicaraguan Contras, there is growing speculation here that the rebels are planning a big incursion into Sandinista territory.

Contra camps along the tense border with Nicaragua have been put off-limits to journalists amid rumours of intensive preparations for resumption of the fighting.

There are indications that the US military machine in Honduras has been put on high alert. A large party of Special Forces commandos is said to have arrived recently at the sprawling American Air Force base in Palmerola, an hour's drive from the capital.

The CIA station in Tegucigalpa — one of the most important in Central America — is also believed to be receiving reinforcements to help organize the renewed campaign.

Flights into Honduras recently have contained an unusually high number of American civilians often describing themselves as anthropologists.

Ever since the Reagan Administration succeeded in pushing its controversial \$100 million military aid package for the Contras through Congress last June, there have been suggestions that the rebels will be encouraged to take and hold a town inside Nicaragua to demonstrate their improved military prowess. It is no secret that their American instructors were sharply disappointed by previous offensives, which have usually petered out into disorderly retreats before the Sandinistas' increasingly effective counter-insurgency troops and the firepower of their Soviet helicopters.

In the coming round of fighting, the Contras will almost certainly have some US anti-aircraft missiles, possibly the highly advanced Stinger, to combat the air threat.

Another poor performance on the battlefield, especially if accompanied by further allegations of brutality towards non-combatants, is certain to expose the White House to renewed pressure from opponents of Administration policy in Honduras and Nicaragua.

The more Reagan builds up the Contras as heroes fighting for freedom, the greater the pressure will be on them to deliver something that looks like \$100 million, one observer said. "What surprises me is that nobody seems to have thought much about the possibility that they will take some town, then get trapped there. Are the Americans going to risk sending the Seventh Cavalry in to rescue them?"

Similar questions about the real objective of US policy in Nicaragua were being asked by Western diplomats at a farewell party thrown earlier this week for Mr John Ferch, unceremoniously fired as US Ambassador to Honduras a few days after the new Contra aid was secured. His dismissal, after less than a year in one of the most sensitive posts in Central America, was attributed by the State Department to "not effectively carrying out US policy in Honduras."

But the growing number of Hondurans who worry about where the ever-closer military links with the US, and the presence of thousands of well-armed Contras on their territory, is taking their country, interpreted this as meaning that Mr Ferch was not considered hawkish enough on these issues to satisfy Washington and their own military high command.

To the State Department's dismay, Mr Ferch has begun delivering some trenchant public observations about the policies he was expected to follow. That \$100 million, he warns, "will go so fast it is really just a down payment. The logic of it all means that the next stage is an expanded military operation."



Delegates met in Vienna yesterday to resume talks about mutual balanced force reductions, including Russia's Mr Vladimir Mikhailov, left, and the US envoy, Mr Robert Blackwill.



## Gloom over Vienna troop cut talks

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

The 40th round of mutual balanced force reduction talks (MBFR) began yesterday in Vienna amid increasing speculation that the deadlock negotiations may not survive into the new year.

"The talks are in trouble and could easily end quite soon," a highly placed Nato source said.

The negotiations, which were begun in 1973 and which aim to reduce the levels of conventional forces in Central Europe, have been stalled for years on the so-called "data" question — the issue of how many troops the Warsaw Pact

has stationed in Central Europe.

Nato has claimed repeatedly that the Eastern bloc's estimates are several tens of thousands out on Western figures gleaned from intelligence activity.

However, last December Nato, in a proposal largely inspired by the then British ambassador to the talks, Mr Michael Alexander, agreed to set aside the data issue and proceed with questions of verification.

This, however, met with a cool response from the Warsaw Pact and, despite claims

by delegates on both sides to the contrary, it is widely believed that Moscow is dissatisfied with the talks and would be happy to end them.

The recent Stockholm accord has been seen as evidence of Moscow's preference for the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe process as a means of maintaining dialogue with the West.

A means of incorporating the troop-level talks in Vienna into CSCE negotiations would, however, be resisted by Nato which is, despite the difficulties of MBFR, eager that the Vienna talks should continue.

## Test ban 'would bar safety research'

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The United States disclosed that about two-thirds of its nuclear stockpile has yet to be fitted with ultra-modern safety devices, and gave this as a key reason for continuing underground testing.

The Pentagon released an unusual photograph of a damaged nuclear warhead and made public a letter to Congress from Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, in support of President Reagan's strong opposition to joining the Soviet Union's unilateral test ban.

The warhead was cracked in an experiment during an underground nuclear test in Nevada, the Pentagon said. That testing could help American scientists to design shields to protect warheads from attack in space as they headed for their targets.

"The introduction of modern safety and security devices into the two-thirds of our stockpiled weapons that do not yet have them would be halted" by a test ban, Mr Weinberger said in his letter.

But Mr Frank Gaffney, the Deputy Assistant Defence Secretary, emphasized that American nuclear weapons had been designed for decades in a manner in which there was "zero possibility" of an accidental nuclear explosion.

But some high explosive, non-nuclear triggers on such devices could detonate in a plane crash or other accident, possibly causing the spread of dangerous plutonium.

"We are fixing the problem through... a very impressive technique called 'insensitive high explosive' that will not detonate except under very carefully controlled, specific circumstances," he said.

## Falkland fishing pacts defended by Argentina

From Eduardo Cue, Buenos Aires

Argentina has strongly defended its bilateral agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria allowing those countries to fish in the waters around the Falkland Islands.

Repeating to recent criticism of the agreements by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Minister, the Argentine Fisheries Under-Secretary, Señor Luis Jaimes, said on Wednesday that they "guarantee without a doubt the conservation of the area's fishing resources and regulate their exploitation

## Lange rejects Russian bid for landing rights

From Richard Long, Wellington

The New Zealand Government yesterday rejected a renewed Soviet request for Aeroflot landing rights and fishing fleet facilities.

The request was raised with Mr Michael Moore, New Zealand's Minister for Overseas Trade, who is in Moscow.

Mr David Lange, the Prime Minister, said in Wellington that the approach was rejected because of wider relationships with the Soviet Union and "other countries." This was seen as a reference to the

United States, and other independent nations in the South Pacific.

The request for landing rights and on-shore facilities for fishing vessels was raised with Mr Moore by Mr Nikolai Kudryavtsev, acting Soviet Minister of Fisheries, when they signed an agreement allowing the Soviet fleet rights to fish in New Zealand's 200-mile economic zone for another four years.

Leading article, page 13

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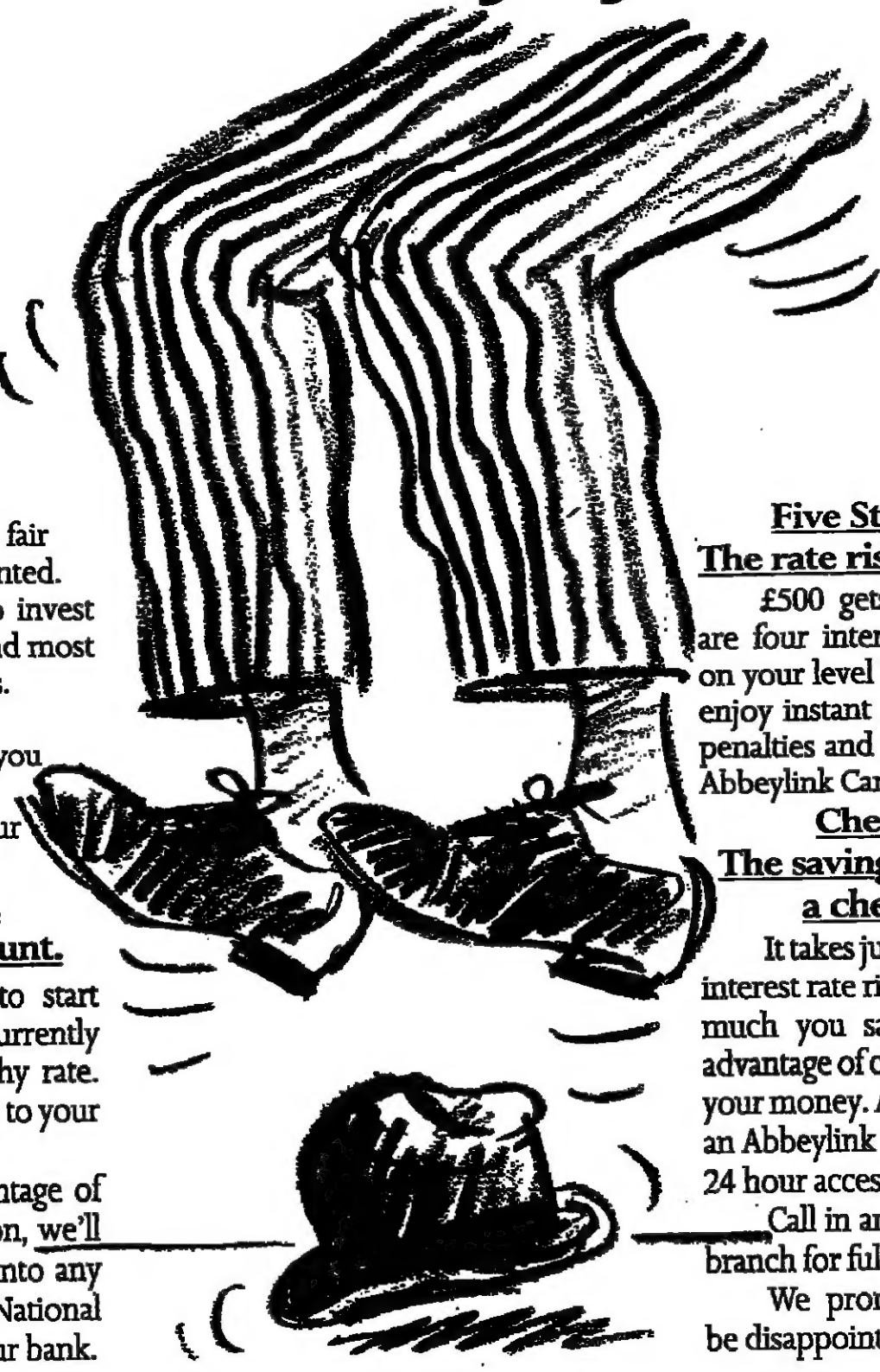
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## Army anxiety over 'dirty war' trial

From Eduardo Cue, Buenos Aires

Two former Buenos Aires police chiefs and 10 other people went on trial here yesterday on charges of kidnapping and torturing more than 280 people during the military regime's "dirty war" against terrorism.

As the new inquiry into human rights violations got under way there were strong indications that the civilian Government — of President Alfonsín — is worried that prolonged prosecution of lower-ranking military officers may further upset and demoralize the armed forces, whose public prestige is at an all-time low following the loss of the Falklands war.

The chief defendant in the trial is General Ramón Juan Camps who, as chief of the Buenos Aires province police between 1976 and 1978, developed a reputation for being as ruthless as he was outspoken.

"He is one of the symbols of the repression in Argentina," Señor Luis Moreno Ocampo, the assistant prosecutor in the case, said.

General Camps received worldwide notoriety in the 1978 book by the former newspaper publisher, Jacobo Timmerman, *Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number*, in which the general's surrealistic interrogations were described.

The trial, which is expected to last until Christmas, is the first time officers who carried out orders from their superiors to torture have been indicted, a development reported to have caused consternation within the armed forces.

The military had hoped legal action would be limited to the high-ranking officers under whose seven-year dictatorship more than 9,000 persons disappeared and are presumed dead.

The trial is taking place in

the same ornate, 19th-century wood-panelled courtroom where nine former top officers, including three ex-presidents, were tried last December for human rights violations.

In that case the civilian court sentenced five officers, including two former Presidents, to jail terms ranging from life imprisonment to 4½ years. Four other officers were acquitted, however, and last week the prosecutor called the sentences arbitrary and appealed to the Supreme Court.

While that trial was generally seen as essential to re-establishing a state of law in Argentina after years of kidnappings and disappearances, Western diplomatic sources say high-ranking government officials are eager to close the issue, so they can concentrate on strengthening the young democracy. At least one other human rights trial against former military officers is scheduled.

"The Government would like to put an end to the trials," a Western diplomat said. "They feel they have made their point."

The continuing prosecutions appear to be becoming a source of division within the Government. "The trials are a way of proving to the victims that there is justice and also of showing those responsible that if they do it again they could end up in jail," a well-informed source said. "That is why I am worried that the executive branch does not share this view."

General Camps, aged 59, is suffering from cancer. He is charged with ordering the torture of about 180 people and with the murder of Sergio Karacchoff, a prominent opposition figure, and Domingo Teruggi, who was abducted with Karacchoff.

## Fur flies as town bylaw ruffles the cat lobby

From Paul Valley, New York

Mayor Michael Hannum of the small town of Pitman, New Jersey, has been trying for years to attract the interest of the American media. Now he is besieged by it.

"This town is officially listed as having the Number One toxic waste site in the entire United States," he said. "We have been trying to draw their attention to our campaign without any success. Now they're all here because of the cats."

This week Pitman Borough Council passed an ordinance limiting to three the number of cats any household can "keep, harbour or maintain". The bylaw has caused uproar among animal lovers of the nation.

The mayor is anxious to dispel the notion that the exclusive little town, which has 11 churches and no bars and serves as a dormitory suburb of New York and Philadelphia, is infested with cats.

"There's 9,000 people in two square miles, and we've

had a number of complaints about individuals keeping 10 or 12 cats and not looking after them properly," he said.

Mrs Lois Thompson, the Town Clerk, said: "In summer the stench can be terrible. People who live near such households complain that they have to keep the windows closed. And they are unable to grow anything in their yard because the cats use it."

The townsfolk introduced the law after trying, unsuccessfully, to get action from the local board of health. The result was an invasion by television reporters.

"We've got a contaminated lake here which contains all the known cancer-causing agents there are," the mayor said. "It's closed off and contained, but some of it is still seeping out."

But the cameramen were all off filming cats. Leaving distracted city officials to wonder if an ordinance restricting the number of television crews to three per street would be legal.

Manila welcome  
Cabinet

Political unrest

Zia rules out for martial

Dhaka press

Security round-up for Games

Br



## Manila welcomes President home with cheers and yellow confetti Cabinet briefs Aquino on rebel crisis

From Keith Dalton  
Manila

President Aquino returned yesterday from the United States to cheering crowds, and immediately sat down with her Cabinet to discuss mounting calls for tougher action against communist rebels.

Within hours her outspoken Defence Minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, told a business meeting that, if unchecked, the war could reach "a point of irreversibility" by 1990, when the 17,000-strong New People's Army could field up to 30,000 men.

"That means we will be fighting each other in a conventional war, no longer just a guerrilla war. It's a statement," he said.

Before the meeting Vice-President Salvador Laurel also said that "a more decisive policy" in combating the 17-year insurgency would be presented to Mrs Aquino, whose call for an immediate ceasefire has been rejected by the rebels.

More than 30,000 people joined the route of the presidential motorcade, which was showered with yellow confetti from office buildings at Makati, the financial centre, where crowds chanting "Cory, Cory" surged on to the road. Hundreds of yellow balloons soared skywards trailing yellow streamers, and banners strung from office windows proclaimed "Welcome home, a job well done".

At the airport Mrs Aquino



Mr Enrile, right, with General Ramos, centre, and Mr Ramon Mitra, Agriculture Minister, at yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

she had been made to understand the "imperative of Philippine growth", and she hoped that re-negotiation of a \$26.4 billion (£18 billion) foreign debt could reduce annual repayments from 40 per cent of export earnings to 25 per cent.

Final approval is needed for

a \$508 million stand-by loan from the International Monetary Fund and \$300 million from the World Bank. The US Senate also has to vote on a \$200 million aid package.

Stressing that Filipinos should not "hold our breath" for outside answers to the country's economic plight, Mrs Aquino said: "The main effort is ours... let us get on with it then, for what else is there to wait for?"

At the Cabinet meeting the armed forces chief, General Fidel Ramos, presented Mrs Aquino with an updated report on the security situation.

## NZ acts to save hot springs of Rotorua

From Richard Long  
Wellington

The New Zealand Government has proposed drastic measures to save one of the country's main tourist attractions, the Rotorua thermal area, which is internationally famous for its hot pools, geysers and mud pools.

Concerned about the draining of underground hot springs by private bore users, which has led to declining thermal activity and the threatened extinction of the area, the Government proposed the closure of all inefficient geothermal bores. It has also suggested a summer shutdown of all bores close to the Pohatu geyser.

The conservation moves, proposed by Mr Bob Tizard, the Minister of Energy, Mr Phil Goff, the Minister for the Environment, and Mr Peter Tapsell, the Minister of Internal Affairs, are to be taken to next week's Cabinet meeting for final approval.

But the moves were met with an outcry from Rotorua hot bore owners and criticism from Mr Paul East, the city's opposition MP, who said they were arbitrary.

Central to the rescue operation is the vesting of managerial responsibility for the thermal area with the Ministry of Energy, instead of local councils.

## Harare signals big constitutional changes next year

From A Correspondent, Harare

Zimbabwe is to change its Westminster parliamentary system next year, Dr Eddison Zvobgo, the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, has confirmed.

Dr Zvobgo told members of the 40-seat Senate that it will be abolished next year in a programme which includes introduction of an executive presidency and the removal of 20 seats reserved for whites in the 100-member House of Assembly.

Plans to amend the British-drafted Lancaster House independence constitution were "extensive and well advanced", he said.

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, is reported to be on the brink of signing a unity agreement with Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of Zapu, the main black opposition party, which would inaugurate a one-party state.

On April 18, the eighth anniversary of independence, Mr Mugabe is constitutionally entitled to remove the 20 seats for whites if he can muster 70 votes in the House.

He controls 66 seats and Mr Nkomo controls 14 seats. Mr Mugabe will not be able to outlaw all organized opposition until 1990 unless he gets approval from all 100 MPs, including 14 in the Conservative Alliance of Mr Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian

Prime Minister, five white independents who generally support the Government, and a lone member for the party of the exiled founder of Zapu, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole.

"Details will have to wait until very thorough consideration has been given, but I can say I look forward to the year after next with great joy," Dr Zvobgo said.

Security clamp: The Zimbabwe Government is imposing security restrictions on returning residents, a move which observers believe is aimed particularly at the 100,000 whites who emigrated to South Africa after the start of the 1973-80 war for black rule here.

Mr Enos Nkala, the Minister of Home Affairs, told the Senate that "birds of flight" would have to be cleared by Zimbabwe's secret service, the Central Intelligence Organization (CIO).

"The CIO and the CID have to find out if the individual is suitable and ensure that he will not be used by our enemies to destabilize Zimbabwe," Mr Nkala said.

"There are many returning residents from South Africa, they are welcome but they should satisfy us," he said.

Mr Nkala did not specify if the process would be applied to returning Zimbabwean citizens.

## Political unrest in Pakistan

### Zia rules out need for martial law

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

President Zia of Pakistan has accused opposition elements of attempting to create a law and order problem and pave the way for another period of martial law.

The President, who also commands the Army and imposed the country's longest period of martial law in 1977, said martial law would not be imposed because the Government could handle the situation.

President Zia rejected the possibility of removing the civilian Government under the Chief Minister, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, in Sind province and the imposition of governor's rule. There has been much disorder in Pakistan's southern province, which has been in the forefront of anti-government demonstrations since 1983.

President Zia, speaking at a news conference in Quetta, said he is willing to talk with the Opposition, which boycotted his 1985 non-party general elections. But he said the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) — the alliance of 10 opposition parties — had been inflexible.

"We will hold the next elections in 1990, and if the MRD has any questions it can come and discuss it with us," President Zia said.

The MRD, however, insists that President Zia should resign and fresh elections, with the participation of politi-

cal parties, should be held without delay under the original 1973 constitution.

President Zia said he abhorred the party political system and would like to keep parties out of the local elections to be held in 1987.

The Prime Minister, Mr Muhammad Khaz Jumejo, who heads the ruling Muslim League party, has repeatedly said political parties are necessary to run the country democratically. But General Zia said that, if the foundation of a political system is weak — and he implied that he regards political parties as unstable — the building which will be erected on it will remain vulnerable and may crumble.

The Prime Minister's efforts to re-plant democracy in Pakistan after nine years of martial law appear to have run into serious difficulties with a bad crime situation in his home province of Sind, as well as other criminal activities, such as the recent hijacking of a Pan Am jet in Karachi, murders of Soviet and Iraqi diplomats, and sectarian clashes in several Punjabi cities and towns resulting in the imposition of curfews in parts of Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, and its suburb, Shalabara.

Press reports have hinted at major political changes taking place in Punjab and Sind, but no official confirmation is available.

## Dhaka press strike

Dhaka — Newspapers in Bangladesh failed to come out for the fifth consecutive day yesterday as more than 7,000 journalists and printers continued their strike to press for re-opening of two newspapers closed by the owners after a dispute with unions (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Journalists and printers walked out demanding that the daily Bangladesh Observer

and its sister weekly Chitrali should resume publication.

More than 500 people were jobless when the owners closed the newspapers last May and refused to resume publication unless the unions accepted new technology and the dismissal of redundant staff. The dispute has affected 20 dailies, 13 of them in Dhaka, and the government-run National News Agency.

## Security round-up for Games

Seoul (Reuters) — South Korea arrested 263,564 suspected criminals in a three-month drive to tighten security for the Asian Games under way in Seoul, police said yesterday.

Those arrested, who accounted for one in every 150 of the population, included suspected hoodlums, robbers, pickpockets, rapists and murderers, police said.

The authorities charged 48,333, summarily sentenced 76,312 to up to 29 days in jail, and are questioning 16,004. The rest have been freed.

Security is an overriding concern for the Games after a bomb attack at Seoul airport on September 14 killed five South Koreans and injured more than 30.

The South Korean Government has blamed the blast on North Korea, accusing the communist North of being bent on sabotaging the Asian Games.

South Korea's 100,000 policemen are on alert against terrorist attacks.

Airport authorities said they had expelled a West German from South Korea after he was found to be listed as a suspected criminal by Interpol. He arrived from Tokyo on Tuesday.

## World Bridge Britons in final 168

From a Bridge Correspondent  
Miami Beach

One British pair qualified for the final of the open pairs world championship being played here.

Glyn Ligging, aged 24, a host at the London School of Bridge, and Andy Robson, aged 22, a supply teacher in Bristol, finished in 30th place in a semi-final round of 168 pairs which included most of the world's leading players.

The field was headed by Lou Bluhm and Bart Bramley, of the United States. Of the leading 42 qualifying pairs 18 were from the US and the field was completed by six pairs from the republic. None was British or American.

Placings of the other British semi-finalists were Patrick Jourdain and Barry Rigel 85, Roman Simolaki and Henry Bethé 116, and Tony Sowter and Paul Hackett 154.

In the women's championship world champions Sally Horton and Sandra Landy finished in fourth place.

Leading qualifiers were the former world champions, Jacqui Mitchell and Judge Amalia Kears of New York. Both finals began yesterday.

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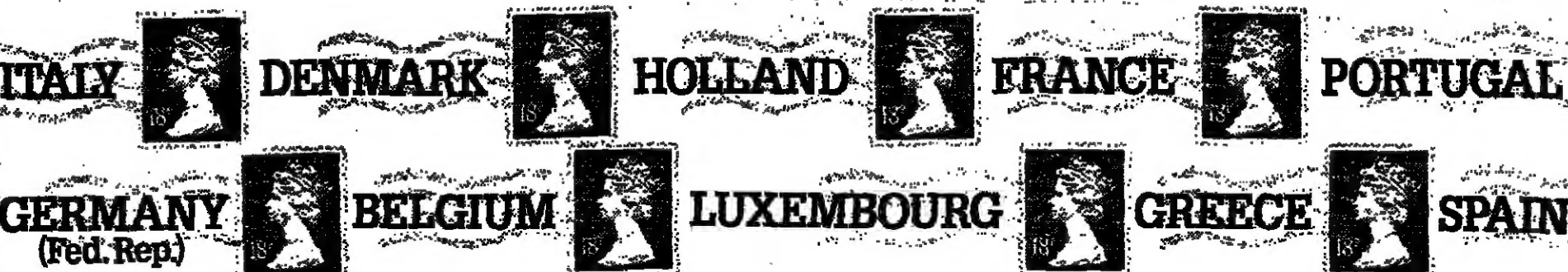
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# Resigned to defeat

## HARD LABOUR THE POLITICAL DIARY OF ROBERT KILROY-SILK

### Part 5: The final days

Continuing his campaign against Militant in his Liverpool constituency, Robert Kilroy-Silk was making headway in his investigations and was attracting unlooked-for parliamentary support. But the battle was taking too heavy a personal toll

NOVEMBER 8, 1985

The Times had a story quoting Neil as saying he would make no intervention to "help Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, the embattled MP for Knowsley North, in his campaign against a Militant takeover of his constituency Party. Asked what he would do if Mr Kilroy-Silk was deselected through Militant pressure, forcing a by-election, Mr Kinnoch replied: "He is well capable of looking after himself".

NOVEMBER 10

At the annual remembrance service in Prescott, Sean Hughes, MP for the neighbouring constituency of Knowsley South, whispered: "Frank Field (Birkenhead) has a list of more than 70 members who'd be prepared to come and help in a by-election", he said. He looked around carefully to make sure that no one could hear. "They can't take the whip away from all of us", he added confidently. But I don't want a by-election. I've already been elected, with a majority of 17,000. The difficulty now is that I can't say I don't want a by-election without it looking as if I've backed down.

We had coffee afterwards in Prescott Civic Hall where several people mentioned a story in the

Extracted from *Hard Labour: The Political Diary of Robert Kilroy-Silk*, to be published by Chatto & Windus on September 29 at £9.95.

*Sunday Times* claiming that regional officials of the Labour Party are being obstructed in their attempts to verify the credentials of delegates from the Transport and General Workers' Union by union officials.

It's all beginning to boil very nicely. We shall add more to the pot when necessary.

NOVEMBER 11

I saw Neil this morning, at my request. He thought that I should "tone down" my campaign. It was clear that the by-election threat was worrying him, and he was obviously relieved when I told him there would not be one. I wonder if I have done the right thing? Neil will do what he can to help me. I know that, but he might have had a little extra incentive if he wanted to avoid a by-election. I've now removed that threat.

The *Guardian* had an amazing letter attacking me. It was written by four of my parliamentary colleagues, comrades and friends: Terry Fields, Eddie Loyden, Bob Wareing and Allan Roberts. It said that my threat to force a by-election, and Frank Field's efforts to enlist the support of MPs to campaign for me, was an interference in the democratic procedure of the Labour Party.

NOVEMBER 12

Things must be getting really bad. Denis Healey stopped me at the Members' entrance tonight. "Hello, Bob," he said warmly. "Then, arm outstretched, he shook my hand firmly and with feeling. "All the best", I felt as if I were about to be sent over the top at Anzio, never to return. Clement Freud added to my



After the fight: Kilroy-Silk with his wife Jan and daughter Natasha — the campaign had intruded into all their lives, and the fun had gone

## 'Not my party any more'

I hadn't intended to resign from my parliamentary seat. Indeed, when *Hard Labour* was delivered to my publishers earlier this year I expected to be launching it at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool. That's what we planned. And why not?

Of course the book would provoke controversy. Of that there was no doubt. Nor would it please everyone. Unpleasant truths never do. But there is nothing in it that demonstrates anything other than support for Neil Kinnoch and the values that he endorses.

The book is an exposé of Militant and of the tactics employed by some of its supporters in Knowsley North, not an attack on the Labour Party. There is nothing in it for which I have to apologise, nothing of which I was ashamed. It tells no lie. And the Labour Party, I know, would be big enough to live with its truths just as it manages to survive the Hatters and the

Scargills, the Beans and the Heffers.

No, *Hard Labour* had nothing to do with my decision, except perhaps in chronology. My path towards it. What made me decide to step aside was the recognition that the Labour Party that I know had been effectively destroyed in my constituency. It wasn't my party any more. I had nothing in common with the political principles and aspirations of those who were now in control.

The majority of ordinary decent party members, wearied by the constant and exhausting battles, that cannot even be visualized by

those who have not experienced them day by day, had given up the struggle. Some had left the party — but for no other. Others had given up politics altogether. The majority simply refused to attend constituency party meetings any more.

It was then, some time in late spring, that I realized that I, too, did not want to continue spending the major part of my time fighting elements within my own party. It was debilitating as well as fruitless. I knew then that I would probably not stand at the next election.

At the end of June I told my

family. A week or so later I confided in a friend who happened to have contacts with the BBC.

"But what will you do?" he asked, anxiously. "I don't know," I said. No doubt unconvincedly. But it was the truth.

I realize that the facts do not fit with the image of the clever, Machiavellian me that has been painted by some of those I thought were my friends and who are convinced that I wrote the book, resigned my seat and joined the BBC as part of a well-planned and cleverly contrived strategy to obtain maximum publicity.

The truth is different. I had no plans. Like Micawber, I hoped that something would turn up. It did. Quickly.

Within a couple of days the BBC invited me to talk to them about a "major new commitment in day-time television". The rest, as they say, is history. The future, I trust, will belong to the Labour Party.

"Thanks, Frank," I said, not sure that he had done me any favour.

NOVEMBER 17

We cleared the leaves in a biting wind, watched as always by our increasingly tame robin. I felt very depressed. Whereas I would normally have been thinking of new plans for the garden, I was preoccupied with the constituency.

I've had enough of it all. I keep asking myself why I should let it dominate and spoil my life. Worse still, it is now intruding into the lives of my son and daughter, who

NOVEMBER 13

I now know the membership of the TGWU branches affiliated to my constituency. It's clear that many do not have enough members to support the delegates. Thus, the 6/556 branch has only 304 members but five delegates, which would require 401 members, all living in Knowsley North.

Some TGWU branches have been sending delegates to other Merseyside constituencies on the same membership. Branch 6/612, with 263 members throughout Merseyside, would be entitled to no more than three delegates in

any one constituency, assuming that all the members lived there. In fact, it has 24 that we have counted so far. That means, in effect, that the branch is claiming a membership of more than 2,400.

Frank Field has been to see Neil about a letter Neil was reported to be sending him. He marched into Neil's office and asked what it was all about. Neil told him to stop pushing for a by-election. Frank told me he had refused.

"Well, that's it," Neil said. "We'll lose the next election and the one after."

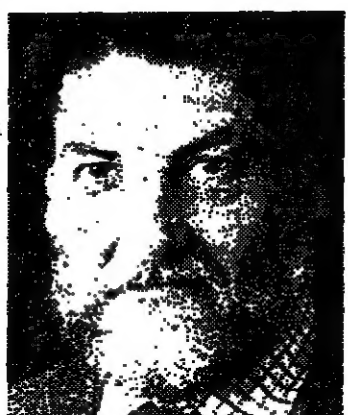
"You'd better do something to stop it, then, hadn't you?" Frank said. "You'd better help Kilroy."

### OFFERS OF SUPPORT FROM STRANGE QUARTERS



Offered to help at a by-election

Clement Freud



'I've never liked you, but...'

Andrew Faulds



'All the best' and a handshake

Denis Healey

are constantly being asked about my problems by their friends, their friends' parents, their teachers or just people they meet. Dominic and Natasha say they don't mind, but I wonder.

NOVEMBER 19-20

The TGWU has paid £111 in affiliation to cover all its delegates. At £5 per delegate, this would work out at 22 delegates whereas, in fact, they have 36, so the union has been asked to reduce the number. And what have they done? They've ordered the apportionment of their affiliation fees in such a way as to maximize the number of delegates.

Peter Fisher strikes again. He has uncovered another ASTMS delegate who has not been properly appointed by the branch he claims to represent. There are now 137 delegates, of whom I must have 69 to win. I still have 66 and 10 possibles — and we still have to sort out the TGWU.

NOVEMBER 21-24

The Prescott East branch of my Party met tonight and unanimously passed a resolution calling on the National Executive of the Labour Party to undertake an inquiry into the way the constituency party is being run. If there is an inquiry it will probably mean that my reselection will have to be postponed. In any case it looked as if it would have to be delayed to sort out the TGWU delegation.

It looks as if the Liverpool council saga is coming to an end. Already the Militants have climbed down, humiliated, and accepted that they will have to set a legal budget after all — and the best of it is that the surrender was forced on them by their own district Labour Party. Better still is the news that Neil is now reputed to be determined that the Liverpool Militants should be expelled from the Party and he is canvassing support for a motion to this effect to be passed at Wednesday's meeting of the National Executive.

NOVEMBER 25

The NEC meeting in two days' time will be required to determine whether or not to allow my reselection to proceed. The chances are that it will be postponed. The regional office of the Labour Party in Manchester has still not managed to agree with the TGWU on the number of delegates it is entitled to. It's getting late because nominations close this Thursday, November 28. There are just three candidates: myself, Tony Mulhearn and Keya Coombes.

The delegates' credentials have to be verified by December 3. I don't think it can be done. Apart from the middle with the TGWU, there are other delegates who have not been cleared.

Let us hope that Neil has enough votes this time.

NOVEMBER 26

The knives were out straight away at tonight's management committee meeting. Suffice to say that during one of the tirades, Dave Kerr, the Press secretary, stood up, pointing his finger in the manner of all Militants, and screamed that Frank Marsden, an elderly and respected member, was "an animal and an arsehole". I wrote the words down on the back of the minutes.

The wonder is not that people like Dave Kerr have taken over the Labour Party, but that people like Frank Marsden still bother to turn up.

NOVEMBER 27

It was a long day that passed without any news from the NEC. But I knew that whatever happened it could never be the same again. I can't go back to yesterday. The fun has been taken out of politics for me, at least for now, and I regret that and resent it. I've also become less fun, or so my mother and children tell me, and I think they're right.

I am resigned to defeat and political oblivion and the adjustment to a new life. It can't be any worse.

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SATURDAY

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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1064

ACROSS

- 1 Mountain range peaks (6)
- 5 Paltry (6)
- 8 Very cold (3)
- 9 Pillar (6)
- 10 Vision science (6)
- 11 Not fat (4)
- 12 Clearly outlined (5,3)
- 14 Out of tune (3,3)
- 17 Dull (6)
- 19 Baldness (8)
- 22 Man in charge (4)
- 24 Misuser (6)
- 25 Rubber (6)
- 26 Alphabet (11,1,1)
- 27 Overcome with horror (6)
- 28 Speculation (6)

DOWN

- 2 Worship (5)
- 3 Soviet satellite (7)
- 4 Fussy (7)
- 5 Short-sighted person (5)
- 6 Eating district (5)
- 7 Hair spray (7)
- 13 Earth atmosphere (3)
- 15 Highland kiln (7)
- 16 Before (3)
- 17 Local accent (7)
- 18 Hug (7)
- 20 Italian staple food (5)
- 21 Diamond measure (3)
- 23 Scornful look (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1063

ACROSS: 8 Rough-and-ready 9 Cub 10 Orchestra 11 Scent 13 Suburbs 16 Neglect 19 Sauna 22 Tulpin tree 24 Tub 25 First offender

DOWN: 1 Braces 2 Rubble 3 Thrombosis 4 Free 6 Waiver 7 Swags 12 Cue 14 Boss-eyed 15 Bun 16 Noddy 17 Calorie 18



FRIDAY PAGE

# A solo life behind the lines...

Jane Lapotaire lit another Gauloise and considered her craft. "Actress?" she said. "Please don't call me that. It's a disparaging word which still has connotations of Edward VII and his music hall ladies. It's tantamount to saying someone is an easy lay." She added, in that husky voice which can fill an auditorium with a blast of sexual anticipation, "You don't have doctors and doctresses, or painters and paintresses."

She is not glamorous, and were little or no make-up on the strong face which hints at a life that has been anything but "actressy" and has made her perfect in the parts of powerful, passionate women: St Joan, Lady Macbeth, Mary Tudor, Cleopatra — and, most notably, Edith Piaf in the Pam Gems play for which she won several awards in Britain and America.

Her psyche is stacked with the complex neuroses which actresses — actors — often hang about themselves as credentials, and she treads the wobbly financial and emotional path of single parent, feminist and "caring" person with a vigour that does not lack lightness, and a seriousness that often dissolves into humour and self-mockery. At 41 she has overcome the trauma of being the illegitimate daughter of a GI she never knew and an 18-year-old girl, who gave Jane to a foster mother in Ipswich at birth — and then tried, unsuccessfully, to win her back through the courts when she was 12.

"My mother has recently come back into my life. She has been an old, mentally ill woman for a long time. Perhaps that's not surprising when you consider the background she had — a French orphan brought over to England at the age of seven and

**A woman of passionate roles, Jane Lapotaire reveals a cool determination to**  
**Andrew Duncan**

thrown into a Dr Barnardo's home.

"I used to have a lot of resentment and hate, but now I have compassion, although I can't say I ever loved her. The moment I became a mother I could never understand how anyone could leave a child.

"Do you want to know the corny cliché of why I went into the theatre? I remember thinking at school that if I couldn't have the two people who were

**'I would resent falling in love again'**

supposed to love me in my life, then I would have 500 people out there who didn't know me, and they would all love me. Of course, that's not the reason I continued."

She is now in repertory at the Royal Shakespeare Company for seven months, starring as Lina in G.B. Shaw's *Misalliance* and Maya in Arthur Miller's *The Archbishop's Calling*. Of Shaw's farce, she commented: "I'm staggered that the play isn't performed more often — it's very relevant and modern, and it's huge fun for me not to be playing a massive role. I can't believe I've got time to put my feet up or potter in the garden.

"Lina is Shaw's idea of what a modern liberated young woman should be — she wears trousers, earns her own living and is not dependent on anyone. I have a lot of similarities with her. I haven't made any man 'the master of my body and my soul', as Lina says."

Never? She has been married twice — first, briefly, to a cameraman and then, for 10 years, to film director Roland Joffé by whom she has a 13-year-old son, Rowan.

She laughed loudly and stared hard. "Oh, frequently," she admitted. "Since my divorce, I've been lucky and had three good relationships, but I've lived on my own for seven years now and would resent falling in love again."

"I don't want my guts churned waiting for the phone to ring, or the electric shocks when he walks round the corner. I tend to back away from the 'grit under the skin' problems. When things become tacky I have the sanctuary of my home, but I worry that the longer I am on my own the more fussy I become. I'm not sure how malleable I would be to another person's whims and foibles. I'm less tolerant and that makes me sad."

"I worry about old age but I have dreams. One is sharing it with an 'intellectual' companion — sex dwindles in importance as one gets older and compatibility is far more important. But, perhaps inevitably, I will be on my own — ideally in a cottage in the country, surrounded by cats, a typewriter and a lovely garden with several grandchildren who think grandma is spunky and makes good apple crumble."

"People who are divorced think they are free, but one veers between being proud of one's independence and then



Alone, not lonely: Jane Lapotaire sees herself growing old "surrounded by grandchildren"

feeling. "Maybe I should marry again. There is no lonelier sound than putting a key into the door of an empty house. On the other hand, I can get up at three in the morning to eat yoghurt."

Presumably that is an acquired middle-class habit and not the sort of eccentricity one expects of a working-class feminist from Ipswich.

"I do consider myself middle class now. I got nothing but positive things from my second marriage and don't

consider the break-up was a failure — in some ways it is a very positive step towards admitting one's shortcomings. I was a working-class girl who didn't know about leisure — my 'gran' used to ask what was the matter if she saw me reading a book — and I learned a lot about music, literature, wine and good food."

Recently she started to write — a magazine article about her childhood and the first seven chapters of a novel. "I'd like it to be published under another

name and then I would really know if it was received on its own merits. Arrogance, arrogance. You've only written seven chapters, girl."

"But I've always wanted to write and I have such a sense of self-satisfaction when I finish anything. Then I wonder — is this all a great dose of self-deception? I don't want to do an actressy number."

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1988  
*Misalliance is in preview at the Barbican Theatre, London, from October 2.*

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

### London's pride

The battle between Dr Wendy Savage and the other London Hospital obstetricians has not shaken the faith of pregnant Tower Hamlets women in the hospital's ability to deliver babies with kindness and safety.

Professor Cedric Grudzinski, the Australian head of department, told *The Times* that local patients had been remarkably uncommittal about the affair, and the demand for beds was greater than ever; the patients, he said, had obviously voted with their feet.

The patients' trust has been reinforced by recent figures from the hospital published in the *British*

*Medical Journal and Hospital Doctor*. Although working in an area with notoriously poor social conditions, and despite the London Hospital's role as the regional neonatal intensive care unit with a heavy caseload of vulnerable babies, the perinatal mortality rate fell below the national average last year for the first time, and was the lowest ever recorded for the district.

Instrumental delivery was used far less than in other areas with a comparable social background. The unit used forceps in 4.6 per cent of deliveries and the Caesarean section rate was 13.6 per cent (in the United States the Caesarean section rate is usually more than 20 per cent.) Both GPs and midwives increased their involvement in the patients' antenatal care and childbirth by 30 per cent.

### Use the needle, not the gun

Mr Snell, who has recently bought Ambridge Hall in *The Archers*, is not alone in being concerned about the danger of spreading viruses such as AIDS and hepatitis B with multidoses injector guns. But whereas Maseri, the AIDS-type disease which affects sheep, is unlikely to prove a problem to David Archer's flock, the gun does represent a hazard when used with people. An estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people are now carrying AIDS in this country. As a result, Dr Donald Acheson, the Government's chief medical officer, has warned doctors not to give this year's influenza injections in this way, but to use disposable needles and syringes. The medical magazine, *Pulse*, quotes Professor Acheson as saying that the danger from the multidoses gun arises when a patient's blood splashes back on to its nozzle, and is transferred from person to person.

### Runners with high spirits

Some 30,000 runners will line up in Hyde Park this Sunday to take part in the *Sunday Times* annual fun run. Although training is not normally taken seriously, the competitive element is quite strong. As a result, many of those who finish do not look too fit, and might need some first aid treatment.

Dr Hugh Bethell, a former registrar in cardiology and now a general practitioner in Tisted, Hampshire, has analysed the training schedule of the runners who collapse in the four-kilometre race and has found that a quarter of those who came to grief had drunk the equivalent of a bottle of wine the night before



the event. Twelve per cent of a control group had also wine and dined well the night before.

As the race is always held on a Sunday, the English pattern of a Saturday night out probably accounts for most of the casualties. Others had had a pre-race party to drum up sponsorship. But this year, Dr Bethell hopes the celebrations will be postponed until after the event. He told a meeting of GPs in Oxford that the cause of the collapse was severe low blood pressure, brought on by the combination of alcohol and unaccustomed exercise.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Concluding her series, Lindsay Knight counsels persistence in getting a referral for psychotherapy — and caution in choosing a therapist

## Tracking down the talking cure

Having acknowledged that things are not right in their world, many people will first make an appointment with their doctor. What happens next depends to a considerable extent on the individual GP's attitude to psychological problems — is he or she sensitive to picking up such difficulties?

GPs have become increasingly aware of their patients' psychological needs and now have at least a very basic training in this area. But there is still a distinct possibility that a patient who is depressed, anxious, not sleeping, will be offered medication — tranquillizers or anti-depressants — and little else by a GP with a packed waiting room. Many doctors do not feel equipped to help in any other way — one of the major criticisms of medical education, from inside and outside the profession, is the fact that it hardly touches on human relationships or psychological problems.

Whether you are confronting a GP or a psychiatrist, if you want psychological therapy rather than chemotherapy you may have to be very clear and persistent — admit-

tedly not easy if you are very distressed, in which case you could ask a relative or friend to accompany and support you.

If you do want psychotherapy, you can get it on the National Health Service, although unfortunately the service is not uniform nationwide. The private sector offers more options but also a number of dubious practitioners, and the choice should be made with care.

On the NHS, whether you will be offered a pill or a "talking cure" is often a matter of luck and where you live. A few progressive individuals or groups in health centres offer sessions with a visiting therapist, or will willingly refer patients for psychotherapy to a psychiatric outpatient department or a hospital psychology department. But the waiting lists may be several months long, and you will have no choice about the psychotherapist offered to you.

In the private sector anyone can advertise themselves as a psychotherapist: there is no register of therapists, no agreed training or code of practice. The main route seems to be word of mouth, although GPs or psychiatrists may have some names of reliable therapists, and your local MIND office will have lists of centres and organizations.

Before making your choice, it is

important to consider exactly what you want help for, and how much time and money you are prepared to commit to therapy.

The British Association of Psychotherapists offers a clinical assessment and referral service for analytical psychotherapy. The assessment is with a professional experienced psychotherapist who will explore with the patient whether psychotherapy is appropriate and feasible: if it does seem so, then a referral is made to another professionally qualified psychotherapist. A fee is charged for this assessment.

The BAP assessors try to make a careful match between patient and therapist, although they are often restricted by geography and the shortage of vacancies. Some people will shop around before choosing. You certainly have every right to do this, although the costs might mount up.

Everyone I spoke to, therapists and patients alike, emphasized that the key to good therapy was the relationship with the therapist, so the initial choice is important. Obviously you are often at your most vulnerable when you are at the stage of seeking therapeutic help, so you must be careful not to be exploited, either financially or otherwise. It seems safer to avoid any individual psychotherapists who advertise, unless they have



been recommended by others too.

"Use your intuition," said Ron Lacey, MIND's campaign director. "It's the quality of the relationship that matters: there is not a lot of evidence that very lengthy training necessarily makes you a better therapist or analyst."

Psychotherapy is, by its very nature, an unpredictable business and no psychotherapist can, with certainty, promise great changes or complete removal of symptoms. The research on its effectiveness is still very patchy, as is the work on any harm therapy might cause. Certainly some research has shown that the personality, attitudes, and general social adjustment of the client make far more difference to the outcome of therapy than anything the therapist can do.

The potency of therapists should not be exaggerated, commented a leading psychotherapist; indeed, she added, some therapists are incompetent and potentially harmful. It is widely believed that clients do not do well with therapists who show them coldness or hostility, who tend to ridicule them when trying to be challenging and who use their relationships with patients to satisfy their own ends.

Should your therapist consistently show such personal traits, then it is worth considering changing to another. Therapists should not be totally inflexible in their techniques, nor, stressed this therapist, should they set goals for the client which are inappropriate,

unrealistic or not shared by the client.

Not surprisingly, research has shown that experienced therapists tend to communicate better, show more empathy, genuineness and positive regard for their clients, take the initiative in therapy to a greater extent and are less distant and exploratory in their interventions.

However, they may not always be available or may charge fees somewhat above your price range. And there are advantages in seeing a trainee or newly qualified therapist: enthusiasm (which rates very highly in research studies on the outcome of therapy) and more careful supervision by seniors.

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## PHOTOGRAPHY

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### FIRST PERSON

## Don't bank on my custom, Mr Jones

those offered by my building society.

When Mr Jones appeared he asked for my name and account number, and whether I had any building society accounts. It was then that I realized the cashier had picked me as a "victim" at random.

Mr Jones then launched into a hard sell of the bank's facilities, covering everything from home contents insurance to regular savings schemes. When I explained that I worked freelance, sometimes not adding to my bank balance for three months at a time, he seemed unable to grasp the fact that regular deductions from my account would not be appropriate.

"Surely you could manage

just five or ten pounds a week," he pleaded. I said I now had quite a healthy balance in my current account and would like to transfer some of it to a deposit account. Would he be kind enough to give me the details?

"Er..." he said. Obviously he had been programmed to give me certain information and I had put him off by deviating from the script.

Recovering, he said he would fetch the information in a moment but, first, were my household contents properly insured?

my watch having had no effect, I told him that I was actually in rather a hurry, which flustered him a bit, causing him to repeat some of the things he had already said before going to get the information about deposit accounts which I had requested in the first place.

"I don't suppose you'll be investing much — less than £200?" he inquired. He obviously hadn't checked up on my bank balance while away, so I agreed, in the hope of shortening the interview. I actually had £900 to stash away towards the day when I need to replace my car.

He handed me a leaflet — "this would be the account you want", I asked him what the current interest rate was, thanked him hastily, and left to go to the building society down the road. His parting remark was one he had obviously made several times before: "I don't suppose your building society ever chats to you like this!"

Margaret Griffin

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## Not so Old Moore

After the publication of *The Times* opinion poll, showing that 61 per cent of 16-24 year olds consider Mrs Thatcher "out of touch with young people", I learn that she has decided to set up a youth committee at No 10. The man in charge is John Moore, the new Transport Secretary and, at 48, still considered young enough for such a challenge. Formerly the party's vice-chairman in charge of youth at Central Office, Moore is clearly a plausible appointment; he became president of the LSE Students' Union back in 1960 before it fell to the left, and subsequently worked closely with President Kennedy. When asked about his soon-to-be announced role, the youthful Moore responded with a surprisingly stuffy "no comment".

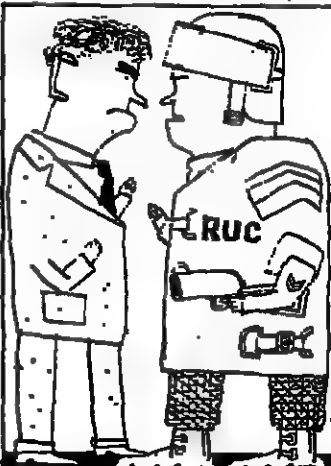
## Silent service

Rosemary Cooper, who is out to wrest Robert Kilroy-Silk's Knowsley North seat for the Liberals, tells me that in her other role as a Liverpool councillor she has hit on an unusual way of embarrassing Derek Hutton. Since both her parents are deaf, she is an expert lip-reader. Sitting opposite Hutton in the council chamber she can sometimes see every word he is saying to his comrades; when he is planning some complicated manoeuvre she stands up to reveal all he has said, thus forestalling him. "He goes bananas," she told me. "The first time it happened, he went ashen. He looked at the floor thinking there was a hidden microphone." Now, when he can remember, he covers his mouth with his hand.

## Déjà vu

There is a familiar ring to the report that David Steel has been involved in secret talks with prominent Tory moderates. After the fistful of denials, we are led to believe that the story was conjured from nowhere: least of all Steel's meeting with a group of reporters from the provinces. A similar secret emerged at the 1984 Liberal conference in Bournemouth, although on that occasion the supposedly significant meeting was between Steel and Neil Kinnock. The story died a natural death when I discovered that the wine bar luncheon had been organized by ITN after the two leaders appeared on its lunchtime news, and that the programme's editor had sat in on the "negotiations".

## BARRY FANTONI



"Stand back, or you'll force me to behave inactively."

## The Archers

Jeffrey Archer has come top of the class in Communication Skills and Numeracy. Not that Jeffrey Archer, but a fourth form namesake at Spence School, Towcester. No chance, I trust, that he will leave vast sums of money and then go on to write frightful books.

## Looking ahead

Bodley Head has decided to press on with plans to publish its centenary history next year despite the recent death of the author, Jack Lambert, formerly arts editor of the *Sunday Times*. Lambert had reached 97 and May Reinhardt, Bodley's executive chairman, tells me he hopes to sign up a successor as soon as he has obtained the blessing of Lambert's widow. The remaining period covers Bodley's joining forces with Jonathan Cape in marketing and distribution, a relationship strengthened earlier this year.

## Inside story

Nicholas Daniloff's recent taste of prison life in Russia was not his first. Researching the life of an ancestor who took part in a plot against the Tsar in the 19th century, he had only a few months earlier tracked down the prison cell where his luckless forefather languished before being exiled to Siberia. Daniloff went inside, where he had his picture taken for posterity. Meanwhile, the intransigence of the Soviet authorities has just been pointed out to me. Last year a critical *Wall Street Journal* article about the cosy relationship between western correspondents and the Kremlin quoted Daniloff as saying: "I don't consort with dissidents... in a political sense, they don't have any influence."

## Mountain view

An embarrassing slip by Brittany Ferries, the country's largest motorboat tour operator. Their latest press release, launching their new Ski Drive package holidays, reads: "The programme offers a good standard of self catering apartments, all within 200 kms of the slopes." PHS

# Rover's reluctant axeman

Edward Townsend on the streamlined drive to stem the years of losses

Granham Day, the new chairman of Rover, formerly BL, has taken just five months to decide what is wrong with his charge — too much inbred old style management, insufficient hard-headed commercial drive and, most obviously of all, no prospect of profits.

Yesterday he spent an hour in front of the massed ranks of the British press explaining his new management structure, aimed at giving the group "commercial punch", and only a few minutes on the financial results.

The bottom line figure of £304.5 million losses in the first six months is bad enough, and any new executive chairman of a company wants to get rid of "extraordinary items" as soon as possible, but of far greater importance in the longer term is the public perception and future potential of what was the flagship of British motor manufacture.

Day, the 53-year-old whizz kid Canadian lawyer hired by Mrs Thatcher to streamline British Shipbuilders and privatize the shipyard, has now begun his task at Rover. At the heart of his brief is to stem the losses as ruthlessly as he deems necessary, to find niches in the overcrowded market place and to prepare the group for a public flotation in whatever form that might even-

tually take. For it is clear that should the Conservatives win a third consecutive term in office, Rover will again be a company for sale — if a buyer can be found.

Day has moved swiftly to demonstrate to the City and other potential investors, including foreign companies, that every option is being considered in the fight to bring Rover back to life. His performance will undoubtedly be compared to that of Sir Michael Edwards, who tried to decentralize the vast group and make each element responsible for itself. Significantly, Day said yesterday: "But what Edwards anticipated in terms of privatization has not happened."

Day arrived at BL on May 1 in the wake of the debacle of the proposed sale to General Motors of the Land Rover/Leyland Trucks subsidiary and the government's snub of Ford's attempt to buy Austin Rover. Undeterred, he has split Land Rover, Leyland and Freight Rover into three entities, and appointed himself as chairman of four of the group's six businesses.

Clearly, if the political will is

ever there, the "for sale" sign can move easily now be re-erected on Land Rover, which is making profits, leaving Leyland trucks to sink or swim on its own. Although the Ford interest has wanted, the prospect of American involvement remains very much alive, and Day will probably be searching for a partner in Freight Rover to develop a replacement for the Sherpa van.

He said yesterday: "We are trying to build on the strengths of the business and make them look more robust. I believe it is possible to position products in the market successfully and not to have them related specifically to being a volume producer."

One of the options now under close scrutiny is to broaden the collaboration with Honda of Japan, which is keen to expand its UK manufacturing base in the light of Nissan's decision to bring forward the second phase of its development at Washington, Tyne and Wear, to produce 100,000 European Nissan cars a year. An equity stake by Honda in Rover is still not ruled out and Day confirmed that manufacture

of Hondas at Longbridge and Cowley was under study.

At the end of this year, when he presents the latest five-year corporate plan, he will ask the government for a final tranche of funding. How much depends on Day's ability to cut the losses.

His three years in charge of British Shipbuilders showed what some regarded as a marvellous attitude towards jobs. In 1983 he took over with 11,000 men running at £161 million. The following year the deficit had been slashed, but jobs had come down again, from 14,000 to 10,000.

Various described as dour and an outspoken extrovert, Day was chosen by Harold Wilson to run the planned British Shipbuilders in 1975. Characteristically, he returned to Canada in frustration at Whitehall and government delays in the nationalization programme and did not return until invited by Mrs Thatcher.

Whether he likes it or not, his tough management style will gain him the traditional axeman title. He says: "I heartily dislike making people unemployed. I hate that. But I have been totally convinced that, unless you do, then the whole lot could be down the tubes. I am determined to do what I have to. The author is industrial correspondent of *The Times*."

Bernard Levin

## Prisoners who serve no purpose



Paula Young

There has been, for some years now, a growing sympathy and concern for Soviet "refuseniks" — those Jews who wish to emigrate but who, in breach of the Helsinki Agreement, on one hand, and Soviet law itself on the other, are denied the right to do so. Many will remember the moving all-day ceremony on London's South Bank a few months ago when names of the tens of thousands still trapped, together with the number of years each had been waiting for permission to leave a country which hates, reviles and persecutes them but which will not let them go, and which is apparently determined never to do so: the recent talks between Soviet and Israeli officials, designed to lead eventually to a resumption of diplomatic relations (broken off by the Russians) collapsed when the plight of Soviet Jewry was raised by the Israelis.

I have frequently written about refuseniks, both in general and particular; but today I want to discuss a different but allied matter, the attempt to destroy, as a deliberate policy, Jewish culture in the Soviet Union, where anti-Semitism is not only widespread but official, and in some of its manifestations hardly less vile than the Nazi version.

Let me begin with a revelation that sounds like a bad music-hall joke: as a matter of fact, it is a bad music-hall joke — the one about the Chinese pedlar in Whitechapel with a tray of *mezzaniks* who refuses to sell to Jews — but joke or no joke, it is still true. There are three academic institutions in the Soviet Union where Hebrew is taught, but it is almost impossible for Jews to gain admission.

If we begin there, where shall we finish? Wherever it is, it will be a long way from the starting-line, for the catalogue of restrictions, denials, obstacles, refusals and harassments suffered by Soviet Jews who wish to live by their religion and their historical culture is so long and so brutal that it cannot do more today than summarize the register of such anti-Jewish oppression.

The Jews of the Soviet Union are officially recognized as one of the hundred or so nationalities incorporated in that country, and under Soviet law are therefore entitled to all the forms of their own cultural expression, as well as the study and dissemination of their languages, the publication of books, the provision of appropriate educational facilities, and all the other aspects of their Jewishness which correspond to the interests of the other national groups. For the Jews, however, these provisions are meaningless: the rights they have in Soviet law and under the Soviet constitution are denied.

The Soviet constitution and law demand a school which teaches in a national language wherever there are 25 pupils of that nationality in the same age group; the Jews of the Soviet Union probably number in all well over

two million but there are no Jewish schools anywhere, no Jewish education, and no teaching of Yiddish (the official language of the Soviet Jewish minority) except in the fraudulent "homeland" of Birobidzhan, where it has a tenuous existence among the children of those few Jews who live there (they comprise only 0.5 per cent of Soviet Jewry). Nor is Yiddish available from language courses outside the schools, and all private teaching of Hebrew, as I have often related here, is repressed with the greatest cruelty.

The situation with books is even worse, as a single striking comparison will make clear. The Bashkirs, another of the recognized nations of the Soviet Union, comprise about 1,750,000 people — substantially fewer than the Jews. Yet in the most recent year for which figures are available, 1983, 146 books were published in the Bashkir tongue, with 1.5 million copies in all; no books were published in Hebrew, and only eight in Yiddish, with a total printing of 12,600 copies.

Books in Russian but on Jewish themes hardly exist, except as a hideous irony, the official anti-Semitic publications, which are plentiful. Attempts by well-wishers outside the Soviet Union to send or bring in books have been defeated by confiscation; I must make clear that I am not referring

to anti-communist or émigré writings, but prayer-books, language primers and the like. Translations into Hebrew of non-Jewish books are also confiscated; they have included *Treasure Island*, Jack London's *Call of the Wild* and such children's books as *Pinochio* and *Snow White*. In the whole of the Soviet Union there is only one Jewish library.

In the other arts the story is the same. There is no Jewish art gallery or exhibition hall, there are no exhibitions of Jewish art, and even the official Czech and Polish collections of Jewish or Jewish-related materials, which have toured in Western countries, have been banned in the Soviet Union. In these circumstances, it is not surprising, however shameful, that most of the Holocaust sites in the Jewish Union, other than those in Jewish cemeteries, go unmarked, and the few which have commemorative stones and the like make no reference to the identity of the victims; even where these were all Jewish.

In the theatre, the situation is as bad. There are only two Jewish professional theatre companies, and there is no theatre building at all; they have to tour all the time, and the number of performances they are allowed to give is pitifully small. Nor are they allowed to tour abroad, even in the other nations of the Soviet empire; for that

matter, Jewish players from those nations are not permitted to perform in the Soviet Union, though they have been allowed to do so in the West. Some amateur groups are tolerated, but unofficial theatrical activities are not, which has led to one of the most pathetic instances of Soviet repression: I know about.

Religious Jews celebrate a feast called Purim, which commemorates their deliverance from an earlier Holocaust, devised by one Haman. (The story is found in the Book of Esther). Over the centuries, their escape from Haman's slaughter has come to be marked by miniature play-acting, accompanied by music; these are sometimes performed in Soviet Jewish homes (they cannot be performed publicly), but those involved have been arrested for this harmless, gentle activity.

Curious? What do the rulers of the Soviet Union imagine they gain by such persecution? Anti-Semitism was, in some mad variety of logic, necessary to Hitler; in the Jews he had an enemy to explain everything imperfect in the world. In this respect Stalin was similar; the Doctors' Plot, it should be remembered, was to be the prelude to the destruction, perhaps in the end the physical destruction, of Soviet Jewry. But none of Stalin's successors, though they have all instigated and encouraged Jewish persecution, has used the Jews as such a scapegoat. Moreover, it is a well-attested fact throughout history that persecution makes its victims cling more strongly to the life and outlook for which they are being persecuted; Jews who have got out of the Soviet Union have increasingly given, as their reason for wanting to leave, the lack of a specifically Jewish life. So it seems that the attempts to crush the cultural identity of the Soviet Jews out of existence have had an effect opposite to that intended. But since that must be apparent to the Soviet leaders, why do they continue with the attempts?

Moises had a word for it: *It is my people*. Since Pharaoh refused, very few persecutors have adopted his attitude; the normal practice over the centuries has been expulsion of the hated minority. Hitler changed that, and where Pharaoh chastized the Jews with whips he chastized them with *expulsion*. But Hitler wanted, as we know, to torment the Jews, and in the end to kill them; even I do not believe that the same motives are at work in the Soviet leaders. Yet I sometimes think they are as mad as Hitler. For consider: here is a minority whom they hate, who cause them more and more trouble, whose plight attracts approbation from abroad, and whose only wish is to shake the dust of the Soviet Union off their feet. They may not let them do that? (I am greatly indebted for the information contained in this column to the Institute of Jewish Affairs, and in particular to their detailed study, *The Problems of Jewish Culture in the USSR*.)

## Now a Provo plan to take to the seats

Dublin The letters column in a newspaper carrying reports of "war news" and from page pictures of masked men captioned "IRA isolates the enemy" is hardly required reading for the Irish political establishment. But correspondence in *Republican News*, a weekly mouthpiece of the Provisional IRA and its political wing, Provisional Sinn Féin, is revealing a debate within the movement that could have far-reaching consequences.

For Provisional Sinn Féin (PSF) may soon break one of its articles of faith: a refusal to take seats in the "partitionist" Dail.

So radical a change in the movement's constitution would require a two-thirds majority, and at present the outcome of any vote on the issue is evenly balanced. The crunch will come at the next annual conference.

If PSF were to contest the forthcoming general election, it could win up to five seats in border areas and the rural west. That is not a prospect any of the established parties relishes, particularly if it gives PSF the balance of power and a say in the choice of the next prime minister.

Charles Haughey, whose Fianna Fáil has, until now, been tipped for victory, recognizes that PSF

success would probably be at his own party's expense. In the 1981 general election two hunger strikers won seats and cost him victory.

In moving towards dropping abstentionism, the Provisionals have come full circle. It was almost 17 years ago that a similar debate in Official Sinn Féin led to a split in the movement and the birth of the Provisional IRA. The question of abstentionism is still divisive, with older rural supporters seeing it as the first step on the road to a "sell-out". Those who put their faith in violence fear that their efforts will be relegated to second place, in his last speech as president of PSF, Ruairi Ó Bradaigh begged members to remain true to their principles. "Dropping abstentionism," he said, "would be as unthinkable as the IRA discussing a surrender of arms."

In the past three years, however, Gerry Adams and his young lieutenants in the North have tried to persuade their supporters of the need to abandon abstentionism while trying to avoid a schism. The "army council" in particular has had to be persuaded that the "Armistice and ballot box" is the best way to power.

Several factors have given rise to the political leadership of the need for change. First, the realization

that a long war of attrition would be needed to break the British will to remain in the North and that "volunteers" are becoming increasingly sceptical of the claim that "one more push" would finally bring success.

Secondly, the Provisionals have learned from their entry into politics in the North that, despite their rejection by hardliners, the vast majority have come to accept the Irish state and its institutions and will not back parties unwilling to sit in the Dail. Abstentionism has crippled the organization in the South, and Adams argues that Provisional Sinn Féin must become relevant to ordinary people if it is to develop. In particular, it hopes for support among the young unemployed of Dublin's working-class estates.

Richard McAuley, one of the Northern PSF leaders, said: "We are relevant in the six counties but in the 26 counties we are viewed in much the same way as the Looney Left in Britain. We are not going to become relevant if people think we are not going to represent them in a constructive, positive way."

The Hillsborough agreement is also being used by those who favour change. They argue that the two major parties in the Republic will have to abandon the high ground of nationalism, giving the PSF a chance to seize it.

David Watt

## A gross lack of leadership

The defence debate at the Liberal assembly was one of the most depressing discussions I have heard for many years. The outcome was an act of attempted political suicide (which may yet succeed); the arguments deployed on both sides were pathetic.

The anti-nuclear case itself was put forward, and eventually endorsed, in all its old, emotional simplicity. Whatever rational case exists for Britain's renouncing nuclear weapons, the assumptions behind the Liberal position, as it now stands — that nuclear weapons are uniquely wicked, that it is possible, by renouncing them, to remain morally unsoiled in the midst of a wicked world, and that others will follow our example if we lead the way — are not in the realm of reason or experience.

Even more disappointing was the performance of David Steel's supporters, who muddled the issue with half-baked arguments and in effect conceded the case before it began. On my rough count, no fewer than six different arguments were offered, as the justification for the famous Steel-Owen nuclear approach to the French: the Americans were becoming unreliable; it would make the present Polaris missile programme cheaper to run; it would provide a better replacement for Polaris; it would end French isolation; it would drag the French into disarmament negotiations; it would provide a counter for bargaining — a nuclear-free Europe. Most of them were oversimplified, and unconvincing, to say the least.

A "Euro-bomb", with a unified command structure behind it, has never been an immediate prospect, but neither is it entirely "credible", as the supporters of Steel's Richard Holroyd called it. The reality — and neither Owen nor Steel has claimed otherwise — is that the French connection, though extremely interesting and well worth pursuing, is obviously speculative. It would at best take years to bring to fruition, and even then would never cause the French to bargain away their own minimum deterrent completely. The only instant pay-off might be in enabling us to get by with three Polaris submarines instead of four.

The real arguments for the Liberal Party keeping open the option of replacing Polaris were never brought out at all. Nobody told the conference that the problem was not American reliability and President Reagan's tendency to bomb people he doesn't like but the credibility of the American nuclear commitment to Europe in the case of the Russians and the West Germans. Nobody suggested that if this credibility was eroded, British security might be at stake. Nobody said that a nuclear-free world might well be a far more dangerous place for Europeans than one with nuclear weapons in it. And, incredibly, nobody said that the unity and political credibility of the Alliance would

be smashed if the assembly was self-indulgent enough to pass the anti-nuclear amendment.

How is one to account for this spinelessness? Why were the issues never taken head-on? Why, for that matter, did David Steel not take to the rostrum himself when he saw his case going by default? The excuse offered by Liberal leaders is that the Liberals are "that kind of party". (Just as their disgruntled SDP partners sometimes complain: "How can we do business with that shower?") The Liberal tradition, it is leaders say, is "deeply anti-authoritarian". It is deeply anti-authoritarian, it is true, but party and if we try to tell our followers what to think we only make matters worse. Translated, this signifies: "Yes, we are rather a shower, but proud of it."

This seems to me to be a cop-out; no doubt the Liberal Party has changed since the establishment days of Sir Archibald Sinclair and Clement Davies but there is no tradition of Liberal anarchism which ordains that the Liberal soldier cannot be persuaded or even guided by determined leadership. The party's officers have caused the present mess. Whether they share the anti-nuclear doubts of the soldiery, or are afraid of an unpopular issue, or cannot be bothered, or are so consumed with fear and jealousy of Owen and the SDP that they are determined not to give away anything, they have allowed a vital year to go by without campaigning in the constituencies for a compromise that was clearly essential, irrespective of what the Alliance commission on defence and disarmament was destined to recommend in July.

The SDP leadership is partly to blame for this failure. If Owen is regarded as a tainted oracle by Liberals, the same does not apply to Roy Jenkins, William Rodgers, or Shirley Williams. Why have they not been stumping Liberal territory and preparing the ground for a compromise on nuclear matters, without which the Alliance cannot survive? The answer partly lies in the personal tension between them, but also, I believe, in the same factor that unmanned the Liberals: that is, in a loss of nerve in the face of the issue itself.

To judge by the polls, public opinion is understandably confused. The electorate is offered by the Conservatives an option which offends every sane idea of expenditure priorities; by Labour an option which threatens to destroy NATO; by the Americans security without relaxation, and by the Russians relaxation without security. The Alliance alternative, offers at present nothing better than a postponement of the choices until after the election, and a vague vision of something called European defence. The Liberal debate has demonstrated that this is not good enough to keep the Alliance together. I suspect it is not good enough to satisfy the voters, either.

moreover... Miles Kington

## Furious old fogeys

"Think John Osborne will turn up," said a voice.

"Who cares if he does," said another. "I can't stand his stuff these days."

"I couldn't stand his stuff in the 1950s," said a third. "God, he made me cross!"

I said nothing. I was lucky enough to be at the annual reunion of the Angry Young Men. And there, as they took much pains to me, were the real Angry Young Men of the 1950s, not the Amies and Waines. They were not young any more, but they were still very, very angry.

"Any news of your play, Ron?" said somebody. Ron frothed.

"Is there, hell!" said Ron. "I sent it to the Royal Court in 1957, and they still haven't had the decency to acknowledge it. It makes you hopping mad."

"Did you send an SAE with it?" "How could I? If you an SAE? I was sorry broke, mate. I couldn't even afford to go to the pub. The one time I tried, it was chucked out for ordering a quarter of a pint. It makes me hopping mad just to think of it."

"You could send one now you're earning £50,000 a year."

"Not bleeding likely," said Ron. "Catch me crawling to the Royal Court."

The figure of 1950s fury burnt brightly that night, as one after the other they recounted their grievances. Bloody Anthony Eden, bloody Alec Douglas-Home, bloody Harold Macmillan, bloody Lord Chancellor, bloody Lord Chancellor, bloody Lord Chancellor.

"What have you got against Brendan Behan?" I asked, mystified. To me he seemed to epitomize the anger of the 1950s.

"What haven't I got against him?" growled the man addressed. "Didn't I come over from Dublin in 1959, a rolling-drunk Irishman prepared to go off any TV programme and make a fool of myself, and wasn't Brendan Behan there doing it all first? Bloody Brendan Behan, I say."

"Bloody Kingsley Amis, I say," broke in another, saying it "I spent two years on my novel about a justful Welsh librarian. I actually spent over £30 seducing two assistant librarians, just for research. And then Kingsley clever boy Amis gets in first, and they film it with Peter Sellers. Don't they? And mine hasn't been published yet, has it?"

It was extraordinary, when you come to think of it. The idea that there was any Angry Young Man movement has now been totally discredited — even Colin Wilson says he wasn't in a bad mood in the Fifties, yet here was this gathering of two dozen elderly men who were still in a fulminating rage. They had all written potential best-sellers none of which had yet been published.

"You weren't all failures," I attempted. After all, Dylan Thomas... There was a roar of disapproval. Dylan Thomas, it seemed, owed them all money and was rich by their standards. The only work of his they all read was his will, and they all found it a substandard work. "If it had only said, 'To Ron, £5, 10s 6d for the drinks I owe him,'" said Ron, "I would have been disposed to judge him more kindly."

The message was quite clear: anger cannot survive success. It can only thrive on failure. Therefore the only Angry Young Man worthy of the name are the ones we have never heard of.

"Well, it's always been the same," said Ron. "They talk about the Lost Generation of American writers, but the only ones worth knowing are the ones who went to Paris with Hemingway and are still there, trying to get published. Men who went to fight in Spain and still haven't had their poems printed. Existentialists who haven't really got their ideas worked out yet."

"Or who still haven't had an affair with Juliette Greco," said somebody else.

They all laughed. Then, as if ashamed of their momentary lapse from anger, they turned on me and asked, crossly, where I was from.

"The Times!" said one. "And nay, I ask what has happened to the piece I sent you on the character of the Coronation?"

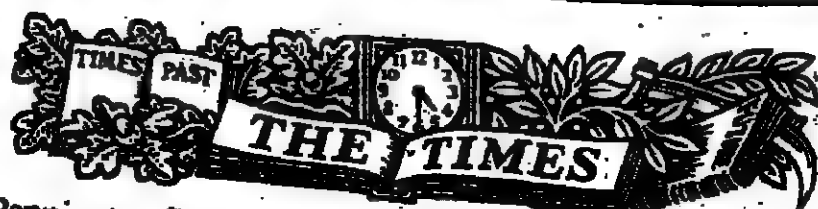
"May I also ask you to justify your extraordinary piece in support of John Masfield's poetry?"

"And why the devil have you put news on the front page?"

Five minutes later, I was being booed unceremoniously out of the 1986 Angry Young Men's booze-up. Well, I didn't blame them. If you're still trying to gain recognition for what you wrote in the 1950s, you've got a lot to be angry about.

Richard Ford





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## ECONOMIC SIGNPOSTS

As the Conservative Party Conference approaches, the Government faces disagreeable news on the economy. A record trade deficit, the pound under pressure, interest rate cuts postponed, pay soaring — these are not ideal banners to put before the troops.

This may be less serious for the present Chancellor than it might be for some others. The counter-inflation policy, upon which so much his reputation, is, firmly intact. Nevertheless, the headlines which Tory activists and, more important, the electorate at large, are now reading have an uncomfortable ring to them.

Trade deficits have been out of the headlines for so long now that their return carries a symbolic weight. There are great dangers in any apparent return to the crisis management of the 1970s.

Trade figures, of course, do not tell the whole story. Recording trade flows through the docks is not such an exact science that one month's figures can be relied upon to reveal the trend.

The Chancellor is not without arguments. He can point out that the fall in the value of net oil exports will be partly offset by a reduction in flows

of interest and dividends in the other direction from foreign oil companies operating in the North Sea. At the same time weaker sterling will make Britain's own earnings from its growing assets overseas more valuable.

However large the adverse influences on the trade figures turn out to be, there is nothing unusual about changes in the strength of trade flows between countries. Nature has a remedy which is a change in the exchange rate. What is unusual about the present circumstances is the scale of the change wrought by the fall in oil prices, an event outside the Government's control.

As the Bank of England concludes in its latest Quarterly Bulletin the combination of lower oil prices and lower sterling should in due course offset each other so far as the balance of payments is concerned. But to judge by the US experience, where a large deficit persists despite the big fall in the dollar during the past 12 months, this may take some time.

During the period of adjustment sterling is bound to be vulnerable, particularly with political uncertainty increasing on the approach of an

election. This will make reductions in interest rates difficult even supposing that the current meetings of the Group of Five and the International Monetary Fund in Washington reach a measure of agreement on the outlook for the world economy and the appropriate pattern of currency rates.

Economic growth has paused during the first half of the year in Britain as in the rest of the world. But the signs are multiplying that this pause is coming to an end. Output appears to be picking up in Germany and France. In the US Mr. Reryl Sprinkel, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, told Congress earlier this week that growth was resuming. The Bank of England too is cautiously optimistic.

Once the benefits of the stimulus to demand from lower oil prices do begin to be felt they should be the best news manufacturing industry has had for some time. Upon the consequent recovery of growth depends the Government's best hopes of a fall, or at least an end, to the rise in the unemployment figures that remain its supporters' greatest electoral concern.

## NO SMOKING

smoke twenty cigarettes a day and die as a result.

The Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (FOREST) argues that it has a somewhat jollier ring about it than "Better England free from tobacco cancer-free" and, indeed, the liberal argument raises fewer difficulties when applied to beer rather than to cigarettes.

Ultimately, however, adults cannot be compelled to take sensible account of the medical evidence that smoking is the principal cause of lung cancer. Government in a free society may warn and discourage; it may place obstacles in the way of smokers; it may over time succeed by such methods in reducing the incidence of the habit; but it cannot actually suppress smoking by the force of law while it remains an entrenched and widespread social habit.

That argument does not, however, apply to minors. They deserve the protection of society against their own inexperience, lack of judgement and impulsiveness. The law, for that reason, already forbids the sale of tobacco to children under sixteen. Should it now follow the advice of the British Medical Association and raise the age to eighteen?

There is every good reason to do so. Most young people of sixteen and seventeen are peculiarly susceptible to the attractions of a false sophistication, perhaps more so than their younger brothers and sisters. Smoking is seen by them as a badge of adulthood. They start smoking — and they don't stop. Medical evidence suggests that one in four of those children will go on to

very least, therefore, raising the age would make the present law easier to enforce.

A final consideration is that the existing voluntary codes to dissuade people from smoking show little success. From whatever motive, the tobacco industry has just launched a new campaign to stop under-aged children from buying cigarettes. But small stickers to be put in shop windows with a red line through the number sixteen are not alone likely to deter children from purchasing tobacco.

Agreements which the tobacco industry entered into with the Government are not binding and perhaps cannot be. According to a report published by the Health Education Council and the North Western Regional Health Authority, attempts by the BBC to reduce the exposure of tobacco sponsored sport have been ineffective. In television snooker matches, for instance, advertising logos appear in full view of the camera.

The 1986 agreement between the industry and the DHSS details "restrict cigarette advertising and promotion has been similarly breached. Cigarette advertisements in close proximity to and clearly visible and identifiable from within buildings or boundaries of schools" are banned. But the "Project Smoke Free" group are able to cite numerous examples of where this is flouted. This may not always be the fault of the industry. But the fact that this is happening at all is reason for concern.

In these circumstances a ban of cigarettes to all those under eighteen is more than justified.

## RED SAILS IN THE SUNRISE

The New Zealand government's decision to turn down a Russian request for air-landing rights and fishing fleet facilities is welcome. It serves as confirmation that the Labour administration of Mr David Lange, which has hardly been flavour of the month among its allies for the past two years, can leave a sour taste in Moscow just as well.

Soviet trawlers (like those from South Korea and Japan) have gone fishing within New Zealand's 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone since the EEZ was established in 1978. Entitled under the Law of the Sea to a share of the fish stocks left after the local boats have filled their holds, they have exercised this right under a succession of four-year agreements, the latest of which has just been signed in Moscow.

But the Russians have long been hankering after other concessions. These include the right to operate Aeroflot flights to and from New Zealand (and Australia), not only for ordinary passengers but also for exchanging boat crews — who at present have to travel by ship from Vladivostok. On-shore ship repair facilities, with rest and recreation for the men, have been among the other long-term objectives, thwarted once again by the Lange government.

His reservations are best reflected by Mr Malcolm Fraser, the former Australian Prime Minister, who recently pointed to the "threat of a Soviet military presence in the region." "It will start as a fish-processing facility," he said. "But that will need a refuelling capacity, which will in time necessitate a repair and maintenance facility and, in turn, an airfield. Then you have a base."

There is already concern about the rights being negotiated by Moscow with the small impoverished islands of the South Pacific, most notably the £1 million deal signed with Kiribati last year. This provided fishing facilities for 16 Soviet trawlers in the extensive waters encircling

what used to be known as the Gilbert Islands.

There is no evidence to suggest that the trawlers fishing off New Zealand or those netting the tuna around Kiribati or elsewhere are doing any more than seeking to satisfy the appetite for fish in Vladivostok. But there are enough areas of strategic interest in the Pacific to make one suspicious.

The search for fresh fisheries must be seen as part of Moscow's burgeoning interests in the whole of the Pacific — interests which have been apparent in the growth of the Russian Far East fleet as well as its fishing industry. Only last month a Russian proposal for naval cooperation between the two countries — an overt attempt to capitalize on the military rift between New Zealand and the United States — was rejected by the cautious Mr Lange.

The Soviet Union is trying to insert the thin end of a very thick wedge into Australasia. The Wellington government clearly perceives this and keeps pushing it away — which gives cause for satisfaction in the West. But the direction of Soviet ambition and the persistence with which it is being pursued should remind the West that it cannot afford complacency over its friendships down under.

## Luton effort to keep the peace

From Mr D. Nendick

Sir, I am amazed at the criticism of Mr David Evans, Chairman of Luton Town, for the barring of rival, so-called "supporters" from the ground. This decision has subsequently led to the management of the game expelling the club from a leading cup competition.

Apparently, with no visiting supporters, the argument goes, there will be no longer any "atmosphere" at football fixtures. But where is the "atmosphere" at the moment and, more significantly, why do rival "supporters" need to exist for a sporting fixture to take place?

Does this imposition on Luton mean the townspeople no longer have a chance of being murdered on Saturday afternoons? That the local constabulary no longer have the privilege of being knifed, stoned or kicked unconscious while attending to the needs of the visiting guests? That little kids can no longer enjoy the pleasure of their fathers being verbally abused because the colour of dye in the garments hanging round their necks is different?

No, the necessity for rival "supporters" to be in attendance at a sporting fixture for "atmosphere" to exist which is conducive to the event is ill-founded and sheer nonsense. Mr Evans has provided a lifeline that the rest of football would be well advised to cling on to.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID NENDICK,  
Studio 45a,  
Jullivich Village, SE21.

From Dr Gerald Michael  
Sir, While Luton Town Football Club may be commended in taking drastic action against hooliganism, surely it must be the duty of the club and the police to control hooliganism in a way which would allow law-abiding visiting supporters to continue to enjoy their hobby rather than being prevented from so doing.

It does appear that Luton are attempting to combat the problem by running away from it.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD MICHAEL,  
23 Tretawn Park,  
Mill Hill, NW7,  
September 24.

From Mr D. L. Hawkes  
Sir, Should not every club trying to combat football violence have on offer two categories of membership?

1. Ordinary, the card for which would be fairly readily available to bona-fide supporters and which would admit to home games only.  
2. Privileged, a kind of "gold" card issued only to carefully vetted applicants who would then have the right to attend "away" games as well.

Yours faithfully,  
D. L. HAWKES,  
461 London Road,  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire,  
September 24.

From Mr Gregory Lutton  
Sir, The truth is out at last. When the choice is between a reduction in football violence and a reduction in profits, the latter holds sway.

Yours faithfully,  
GREGORY LUTTON,  
Naval & Military Club,  
94 Piccadilly, W1,  
September 23.

## Prosecution service

From Mr Anthony Edwards  
Sir, An article (September 15) cited the difficulties faced by the Crown Prosecution Service.

All who work in the criminal courts in London are aware of the size of the task being undertaken by the service. It would be remarkable if there was not an occasional problem in the early days. However, in fairness, it should be pointed out that none that I have encountered could not be dealt with on the day on which it arose. Some could not be because in no instance has a case been unnecessarily adjourned.

Against that background it is unfair to criticise the service. A full analysis would require reference to the daily thorough review and proper handling of a very substantial case loads by a staff not yet up to establishment. It is those cases which, even at this stage, represent the majority.

It is that review of files which should be the centre of attention. It is central to the development of the service and should have a very real impact on the conduct of the criminal justice system.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY EDWARDS,  
Park House,  
29 Mile End Road, E1,  
September 17.

## Hospital specialties

From the Chairman of West Midlands Regional Health Authority  
Sir, When Mr L. D. Abrams writes (September 12) that if he had more money he could do more heart operations in his department at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, he overlooks the fact that our regional policy is to develop this service at other centres as well, namely, Coventry, Wolverhampton, and Stoke on Trent.

While we have every sympathy with his aims and have nothing but praise for the increased efficiency which has already enabled him to increase the number of operations performed, the money that is available for these designated regional specialties has to be shared a number of ways. These

## Law and disorder in St Paul's, Bristol

From the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Sir, Few police officers would take issue with your correspondent, Mr D. C. T. Frewer (September 20) on the desirability of locally based officers patrolling on foot or bicycle as part of policing arrangements. That is a policy we follow in St Paul's. Sadly, however, in parts of our great cities policing is a difficult and dangerous business.

In St Paul's patrolling officers were subject to verbal abuse and physical attack by those who saw a police presence as a threat to their criminal activities, such as drug dealing, prostitution and street robbery. Those were the circumstances that made "Operation Delivery" necessary.

By an increasing range of community activities and by using the established formal and informal avenues for consultation with the community, I hope that the criminal element can be isolated. That objective will depend upon the future response of the wider community in St Paul's, which has already expressed its support for our recent operation.

Yours faithfully,  
RONALD F. BROOME,  
Chief Constable, Avon and Somerset Constabulary,  
Chief Constable's Office,  
Bristol, Avon,  
September 22.

From the Reverend Peter Barnett  
Sir, Your editorial (September 13) identified me as "making rioting respectable". I wish to respond by making the following points:

1. To criticise the police or question their tactics does not make the critic an anarchist or an apologist for criminal activity. I have never claimed to speak for anyone but myself.

As a local priest responsible for the area I felt it right to be present during the disturbances and to state the truth as I saw it. I know many local people share my concern. They, like me, are not anti-police or pro-rioters. That kind of simplistic description is not helpful in a difficult and complex situation. The issue is not about whether there is policing, but what kind of policing.

2. My concern for the whole community of St Paul's, and particularly its relationship with the whole city of Bristol, is simply documented in the Archbishop of Canterbury's report, *Faith in the City*. The impetus for this report originated with the disturbances in St Paul's in 1980 followed by others around the country in 1981.

In the chapter on "Order and Law" the report states:

The remedy for the sense of threat and insecurity under which so many

people live in the inner city is not (at least in a free and democratic country) to intensify policing but to make a simultaneous attack on the many factors which are... causing the inhabitants of these areas to lose respect for each other's persons and property, and to live together in order and peace...

Christians can never cease to ask serious questions of a society whose prisons contain a quite disproportionate number of black people or of members of the "lowest" social classes, or about the evidence which is still widely available of black people being far more exposed to police questioning and arrest on the streets than whites.

This is exactly what my colleagues and I are continually doing and Thursday, September 11, was no exception. On that evening our main concern was that the 600 or so policemen with riot equipment, having achieved their objective of making arrests and searching five properties, should have given the maximum opportunity for the community to return to normal, with normal policing, as quickly as possible and in daylight. We felt the longer police stayed when everything was quiet the more resentful people, particularly young people, would become.

We would welcome a public enquiry to enable the many points of view being expressed by our very diverse community to be aired and considered.

3. You say that "St Paul's is not the uniformly depressed ghetto conjured up by the phrase 'inner city area'". Yes, the chairman of Bristol City Council's planning committee said in the 1985 report *Poverty in Bristol*:

This report should shock Bristol... It reveals that one person in five in Bristol lives in an area of deprivation. It reveals that six city communities (three of them inner city, three outlying estates) have now virtually detached themselves from the rest of the city because of their unemployment and resultant poverty...

[The report concludes that] one area in particular — St Paul's — is drifting away even from the other areas of deprivation... an affluent majority — employed, well-housed, enjoying good health and a good environment — is concealing a growing minority of Bristol's people who have none of these things.

We are not "giving" young people permission to riot, as you claim, but rather trying to articulate our faith in the city of Bristol and remembering Martin Luther King's telling words, "a riot is an expression of a people who have not been listened to".

Yours faithfully,  
PETER BARNETT,  
Team Rector,  
St Paul's Parish Centre,  
Church House,  
62 Ashley Road,  
Bristol, Avon.

## Diplomatic immunity

From Mr D. J. Appadurai

Sir, Lionel Bloch complains (September 16) that "we allowed the assassins of the Libyan Embassy who killed WPC Fletcher to return to their country under the cloak of diplomatic immunity."

The "cloak" in this case is the law of the land contained in the Diplomatic Privileges Act 1964. This confers absolute immunity on diplomatic premises, the diplomatic bag and on diplomatic agents. Is Mr Bloch suggesting that the way to stop law-breaking is for the victim to also resort to law-breaking?

Fortunately, his prescription was not accepted, either by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee which prepared a detailed report on the Libyan shooting incident, or by the Government in the White Paper (Cmd 9497) which accepted all the major recommendations of the committee. Rather, the

emphasis was on a more rigorous enforcement of the law, and within the framework permitted by the law.

This framework includes the power to limit the size of diplomatic missions, to declare a diplomat persona non grata, the monitoring of diplomatic personnel by the visa requirement, notification of new and replacement personnel up to the maximum limits permitted under article 10 of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and, probably, the electronic scanning of the diplomatic bag — the last already adopted by Italy.

Enforcement of these powers would do more to further world order and secure Britain's long-term interests than the prescriptions implicit in Mr Bloch's muscular tone.

I am, yours faithfully,  
DAVID APPADURAI,  
9 Paterson House,  
Brecknock Road, N19,  
September 17.

## Degree proposal

From the President of the Secondary Heads Association

Sir, The Secondary Heads Association sees considerable merit in the proposal of the Vice-Chancellor of Salford University (report, September 5, and his letter, September 17) for a restructuring of the present honours degree course.

A two-year pass degree followed, by those capable of doing so, by a two-year honours degree would substantially increase this country's disturbingly low higher education participation rate. It would also free the sixth form curriculum from the excessive and narrow specialisation imposed upon it by the demands of the present honours degree.

It is by this route (and not, pace Mr Kenneth Baker and the imminent advanced/supplementary qualification, by yet another layer of sixth form examination) that we are most likely to achieve the broad five-subject pre-university curriculum that we clearly need,

and that will of itself substantially improve our deplorably low post-16 participation rate.

Yours faithfully,  
M. N. DUFFY, President,  
Secondary Heads Association,  
Chancery House,  
107 St Paul's Road, N1,  
September 17.

## Cast upon the waters

From Mr S. G. Hamilton

Sir, PHS (September 23) refers to a water authority refusing to allow the scattering of human ashes on to a large river for fear of pollution.

One might be excused for thinking that a few handfuls of fire-sterilized minerals might even enrich the water, and being more or less in the correct proportions, would even help sustain the lives of countless small creatures. A fine example of recycling, apart from religious considerations.

Yours etc,  
S. G. HAMILTON,  
3 North End Avenue,  
Thorpeness,  
Suffolk.

## ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 26 1821

The 18th and early 19th centuries saw the death penalty imposed for over 200 crimes, mostly for offences against property — in 1814 a man was hanged for cutting down a fruit tree. By 1834 the capital crimes had been reduced to 15 and by 1861 to four — murder, setting fire to arsenals, treason and piracy with violence.

## EXECUTION

At eight o'clock yesterday morning the awful sentence of the law was carried into execution on George Lee, for entering forged 5L Banknotes; William Thomson, for a highway robbery and Thomas Patmore, for cutting and maiming with intent to kill. As thirty-six o'clock the men were hanged, assembled around the fatal drop, and at a quarter past seven the Sheriffs arrived at Newgate.

Patmore was the first who ascended the platform. He was, throughout the whole of the scene, remarkably collected. During the night he slept soundly for about two hours and a half and awoke in the same state of composure and self-possession, which appears not to have forsaken him since the awful tidings were first announced to him. From the time he awoke till the moment his unhappy existence was terminated, he continued either in private prayer, or joining the clergyman in fervent public devotion. The last interview he had with his wife was on Monday; he pressed her much to tell him if there were no grounds for the jealousy which had driven him to the commission of action that had brought upon him consequences so dreadful. He told her that he should die more happy if he could arrive at the certainty of her fidelity; or even if his suspicions were too well founded, he should be more satisfied. She did not, however, give him any direct reply, and the unhappy man died with a full conviction of her guilt.

Thomson was the next who ascended the fatal scaffold. This miserable youth was but 17 years of age, and was most distressingly ignorant and even stupid. He had no parents, indeed no relatives; and if we accept a person to whom he was for some time an apprentice, we may add, no friends. With intellects of apparently the lowest possible order, he had not enjoyed the advantage of the first rudiments of learning, and judging from his conduct since his conviction, never had received a moral adviser. Some time since, his master's business falling off, he was obliged to dismiss this wretched boy from his service, and he was consequently thrown upon the town, exposed to all the temptations of vice, to which he has thus become a victim. The worthy Ordinary has taken much pain to arouse him from his apathy, but all appeared useless. "He had never," he said, "heard of anything about God, and he did not wish it. He on Monday night went to sleep at his usual time, a little past nine, and it was with difficulty the turnkey awoke him at five o'clock in the morning. After, however, joining his fellow sufferers and the clergyman in their devotions, he appeared considerably to relent, and expressed a desire to partake of the Sacrament, which, after some conversation and advice, Mr Cotton thought himself bound to administer. He afterwards seemed to relapse into his usual stupidity, and during the ceremony of knocking off his irons, and his walking to the fatal drop, his countenance betrayed the most distressing vacancy.

Lee was the last who ascended the platform, and of the three he exhibited by far the least fortitude. He was, however, attended during the night by several friends of his own persuasion, and it was passed in devotion. He was attended to the last moment by his brother, whose feelings seemed to overpower him. When the drop fell, he rushed into the lobby, and threw himself down in a state of the most pitiable and violent anguish. Another person of the same persuasion likewise attended, by permission of the Sheriffs, to perform the last duties to the miserable man; it being contrary to their religious ordinances to allow the body to be touched by a Christian. In consequence of observing this rite, the hangman was prevented from going through the whole of his duty, and the wretched man had his sufferings for some minutes prolonged. Patmore and Thomson appeared to feel but a momentary pang.

After the bodies had hung the usual time, they were cut down, and Lee was delivered to his friends, who had provided a shell to receive it. It was immediately conveyed away in a hearse, which drove up to the felds door.

Just before the bodies were cut down, another proof was given that popular superstition of the most senseless kind is not yet extinct. Four females ascended the platform and rubbed their faces and necks with the hands of Patmore and Thomson. This, it is thought, is a cure for wens.

## Pool business

From Mr P. M. Reeve

Sir, The final paragraph of Mr Fogg's letter (September 19) on the Japanese businessman's water-proof card demonstrates very neatly the negative attitude of so many British business people. The correct wording, of course, should have been, "So, I, too, acquired waterproof business cards."

Mr Fogg has no doubt been inundated with offers of supply already; but if not I know where he can obtain them in the UK. Yours faithfully,  
P. M. REEVE, Managing Director,  
International Technology Ltd,  
2 High Street,  
Little Eversden, Cambridge.







# THE ARTS

## Television Straight talking

Critics of the television documentary often complain that the form too rarely strays beyond a simple journalistic representation in which narrated exposition is interspersed with quotable, talking-head interviews. Last night's *Equinox* (Channel 4), which dealt with the technological miracles possible through miniaturization, used the traditional format with deft effectiveness, as experts explained their theories to a watchful camera, while the off-screen voice of John Hedges guided us carefully from topic to topic.

Although this is, potentially, a dull and old-fashioned way of doing things — rather like those worthy *Life* magazines one had to sit through at school — it is difficult to envisage an alternative which is both literate and economical. This kind of programme presumes that its audience will sit aside the time to watch and concentrate, and, in these days of pyrotechnic computer graphics and attention-grabbing visual invention, it is refreshing to encounter a documentary which trusts the intrinsic interest of its content. (BBC's *Nine O'Clock News* is currently running a title sequence whose riotous design and thunderous music suggest that the next step is a pre-credit teaser and a Shirley Bassey theme-song.)

Most of us know that we owe the Sony Walkman and the compact disc to an increasing scientific ability to construct technological equipment in smaller and smaller sizes. Many of us can remember the wireless, with its large, unreliable valves, and its usefully portable successor, the shrill little transistor radio. *Practically In Profit* pointed out that miniaturization has more to do with accuracy and efficiency than with smallness.

As incredibly — the atom itself is becoming a workable unit in industrial measurement and construction, scientists can cancel out the formal imperfections of nature in order to bring us equipment of astonishing efficiency and resilience. Robt-Royce are designing turbine blades to specifications calculated in thousandths of millimetres which may cost \$100,000 off the running costs of each plane that flies the Atlantic. The famous transistor, which reduces a computer to the size of a chip, may soon give us machines like Kubrick's Hal 9000, which can talk and see — an eerie simulation of humanity. This was a lucid and absorbing documentary, beautifully organized by the writer/producer Glyn Jones, in a consistently excellent series.

Andrew Rissik

## Cinema: new releases in London

# A music drama allowed to flow

Otello (U)  
ABC Shaftesbury  
Avenue

The Legend of Suram  
Fortress (U)  
Camden Plaza

Eleni (PG)  
Cannon Haymarket

At first sight it may seem sheer perversity to cut numbers in Verdi's *Otello* as familiar as the Act I chorus or Desdemona's Willow Song. It is possible though that Franco Zeffirelli's intention was precisely to frustrate the familiar theatrical expectations in his concern to emphasize how far Verdi had progressed from the conventions of Victorian grand opera which he had helped establish half a century before. The film above all demonstrates how modern was Verdi's new concept of music drama. The freedom of action and movement which the film is uniquely able to provide reveals and enhances the dramatic fluidity of the work.

The major fault is indeed a too-evident straining after this fluidity. Neither the actors nor the camera nor the cutter ever seem to rest. Everything is so constantly, nervously on the move that we can hardly take in the settings, mostly ancient castles and fortresses which Zeffirelli has selected and dressed to marvellous effect. *Otello*'s Cypriot stronghold is a place of windows, loopholes, doorways, passages, holes and corners for lurking and spying. Iago and Otello in turn both enter an ancient domed chapel lit only by a single shaft of light from the roof — the one to deny his God and the other ritually to consign his crucifix to the flames before killing Desdemona.

Musically Lorin Maazel's interpretation seems to my inexperienced ear impeccable: the purists must adjudicate on the ingenious orchestration of the tempest in the Overture and the wind in the last act. The performances explore to the full the rich dramatic and psychological possibilities which Verdi and Boito afford.

Plácido Domingo's Moor has tragic splendour and such realistic conviction that we never question his colour, or think of it as make-up. Justino Diaz creates an Iago of fascinating subtlety, haunted by a demon of mischief, at once denying the existence of a God and defying him. Katia Ricciarelli manages to give a human scale to Desdemona's abused, bewildered, saintly innocence, and though cuts have left Emilia somewhat in the air, Petra Malakova makes a vivid impression in the role.

For some parts Zeffirelli has used off-screen operatic voices mouthed by on-screen actors. This is particularly effective in allowing him to cast an on-screen Cassio (Urbano Barberini, voiced by Ezio di Cesare) whose physical attractions, sensuously caressed by the camera, make him a credible sexual irritant to those around him.

With *The Legend of Suram Fortress* Sergio Paradjanov returns not unobtrusively to work in the Soviet cinema, after 20 years of ever-worsening difficulties. In 1965 *Shadows of Our Forgotten Ancestors* brought him both world-wide attention and the first grumblings at home about the obscurity and elitism of his work. In the years between, the only project he was allowed to make was *The Colour of Pomegranates* (1968-69), but that was condemned as "hermetic and obscure", shelved and re-edited. Between 1974 and 1982 Paradjanov served a total of five years in prison. Based on a 19th-century re-telling of an old folk myth, *The Legend of*



A hero's return in the wet: Otello (Plácido Domingo) embraces Desdemona (Katia Ricciarelli) observed by Iago (Justino Diaz, left) and the handsome Cassio (Urbano Barberini)

*Suram Fortress* sets out to do for ancient Georgian lore and legend what *The Colour of Pomegranates* did for the culture of Paradjanov's native Armenia. The story is a symbolic paean to the warriors of every age who sacrifice their lives for their motherland. The King of Georgia commands the building of a fortress against the foreign invaders but, each time the walls reach roof-level, it collapses. A fortune-teller predicts that it will only stand if the most handsome and noble young warrior is bricked up in the wall. A suitably blue-eyed and blond youth offers himself for the sacrifice, and the fortress is built.

Once again Paradjanov composes rich and wonderful images out of undulating landscapes, ancient buildings, banners and draperies, folk artefacts and costumes, actors with "strange, beautiful, sculpted features". Rocks of sheep and cattle, arches and cobblestones, musical instruments. The effect is like stepping into primitive religious paintings. A pair of bulls stand in exact sym-

metry to frame a scene; a flock of sheep make patterns on the hillside as they flee before the invading enemy; a sailing ship hovers mysteriously in the air, between the ocean and the plain.

There are hints that Paradjanov in this case has had to work his magic with very sparse means. The strange, horned structures that flank the king's throne prove, on close inspection to be four early 20th-century gilt console tables, probably borrowed from the local hotel, and inverted on top of each other. He does not care that behind his hovering ship contemporary vessels are clearly visible. There is a touch of the village pageant.

Peter Yates assaults alien territory in *Eleni*, which is based on a best-seller by the Greek-born New York Times journalist Nicholas...

film flashes back and forth between the present, with the grown-up Gage (John Malkovich) on his journey, and the suffering village of his childhood.

Undoubtedly the kind of horrors the film describes took place. The trouble is that it is very hard to believe anything in the film. Steve Tesich's two-dimensional screenplay removes the Communist terror from any context. Although in the book the village was occupied in turn by both sides, in the film we never glimpse the opposition, vaguely referred to as monarchists or fascists. There is no suggestion of a political background: all we see are black-hearted Communist villains, under an extravagantly satanic leader (Oliver Cotton).

The Greek village has been convincingly enough re-created in Spain; but the formal and stilted dialogue makes it hard to credit its inhabitants, who include principally Kate Nelligan and Linda Hunt.

David Robinson

## Theatre: Pintero treated seriously to hilarious effect

# Farce played with rare mastery

The Magistrate  
Lyttelton

The name of Pintero usually evokes two quite separate playwrights, the first an entertainer who disinfected French farce for the Victorian carriage trade. The other, best known for *The Second Mrs Tanqueray*, is a would-be serious writer, impatiently striving to bring Victorian moral idealism to terms with the realities of life.

When Michael Rudman directed *The Second Mrs Tanqueray* at the National Theatre, it turned

out to be a much better play than that. And, in this production of Pintero's first farce, he puts paid to the two playwrights. Apart from the coincidence of the basic plot points (both turning on a second marriage between a guilelessly "doting" husband and a woman with a guilty secret), *The Magistrate* occupies the same upper-middle-class world, where there is a rigid division between private and public behaviour and female virtue is like money in the bank.

Paula Tanqueray has an affair, Jo, husky, virginal, Agatha Posket has passed off her grown-up son as a 14-year-old so as to enhance her market value. One is a theme for drama and the other for farce, but their motives and the social disgrace they face are identical.

This is by far the funniest Pintero production I have seen, and its secret is to play the text as though it were not a farce at all. There are no super-energetic figures bounding on to identify the stage as far corner. The pace throughout is measured and deliberate, with no frantic accelerations. Characters are treated as steadily earnest, and it is their pursuit of ruling obsessions that reduces the audience to spasms of helpless laughter. Such a style is always being laid down as the basic rule for farce, but it is very seldom that you see a production with the nerve to carry it out.

It also yields the striking, if minor, gain of admitting sex into Pintero's supposedly passionless comedy. Up goes the curtain on *Cap Tempest's* different notion of what stardom should be.

Harry is disgusted by the macho talk of his son-in-law and paratrooper friends. His knowledge of Korea pierces their oafish comradeship and frontier-town belligerence. But he ends the evening endorsing their values, in his own qualified way. If he is a spoilt man with a conscience, something of the soldier still clings to him, and he has never forgotten those simple combat movies on which he grew up.

Pintero's writing, sometimes makes too much of this theme, and the characters speak with a grandiose vibrato that is often uncomfortably close to parody. Like so much naturalistic folk theatre, *War Pictures* comes at us in a wash of emotion, and it has the robust sentimentality of an English drinking-song. But, it is well directed by Chris Martin, who arranges the action in flowing tableaux and matches it seamlessly to pleasantly satirical snatches of Hollywood music. Brian Hickey plays Harry with hangdog pathos, and, in a reliable supporting cast, Polly Taylor makes something touching and funny of his vulgar, faithless wife.

The play's skill is the way in which it makes Harry's dilemma, his quiet self-disgust, into a matter for theatrical action and spectacle. As his wife betrays him, as his friends grope their fickle worth, as these unheroic characters scramble for the dignity of fine sentiments and noble ideals, we see what Hollywood and the cinema offers them. In their messy, complicated lives they long for the consolations of primary-colour romance and great-hearted adventure. They would all like to be stars, though each of them has a

with a scarred nose: a superb detail that precisely encapsulates the contradiction of private and public life.

The surrounding characters share this kind of fanaticism which is constantly tripping them up: whether it be Alison Fisk's baritone-voiced Charlotte, torn between displaying wronged dignity and succumbing to her lust for food; or Gemma Craven's Agatha, winding up a long sequence of sweetly turned lies with a piercing scream on discovering that she is up before her husband in court.

If there is one factor that defines the show's quality it is Ken Stott's performance of the police inspector who raids the hotel: a courteous, unhurried official, blandly taking down all the files from Mr Pickering and Nicholas le Prevost, and slowly lifting a whistle to his lips. There is no hue and cry. He barely moves, but he certainly makes the others jump about.

Irving Wardle

## Music in London

Philharmonia/  
Sinopoli  
Festival Hall

Mahler's Sixth Symphony was the first work that I heard Giuseppe Sinopoli conduct. Then, with the same orchestra and in the same hall as Wednesday night's performance, the overriding impression of his reading was of a relentless cut and thrust and nervous tension utterly fitting for such devastating music.

But on his return to the work in the opening concert of the Philharmonia Orchestra's season he at first — indeed for most of the work's duration — seemed to have toned down the drama to a respectably Brucknerian level. The first movement went on its way a shade complacently, played almost like a straightforward

classical sonata form, though not without a rubato which, however, stayed well within the bounds of acceptability. Thus Fate's inexorable march stole up on one with curious stealth, and certainly without inducing much sense of foreboding.

Perhaps, one thought, the orchestra had become too familiar with the music, and certainly the tameness, the very acuteness of the Scherzo, which normally bites with sharp irony in the course of its grim martial stride, indicated as much. Indeed, the point of this movement seemed to be the Trio section, here again a somewhat easygoing *Ländler* rather than something grotesque and larger than life. We were being edged gently towards the nostalgic inward passions of the slow movement, where the glowing, cultivated sound of the Phil-

harmonia's playing evoked an atmosphere of calm resolution, albeit in a key as far remote from the foregoing A minor as it is possible to be. Need the finale have been played at all?

The answer was most definitely yes, for Sinopoli had saved his trump card for this moment. He had been deluding us into a false sense of security, as the slow movement's sonal remoteness should have told us, but now was the time to shock us with the ultimate reality of death. By the cataclysmic end one's senses had been buffeted into total submission. There was no possible escape, and the pain had been made the more unendurable by the cruel mildness of what had gone before. Either this was a clever, if controversial, re-interpretation, or the Philharmonia had simply woken up in the nick of time. Whichever it worked.

As for not technically the orchestra was on fine form. One of the most striking things in the reading was the positive playing of the harps; scarcely a note from these easily swamped instruments did not penetrate the texture in the finale. And such was the general sureness of touch that it seems inevitable the Philharmonia will again set the standard in London this season.

Stephen Pettitt

## Rock

Cameo  
Hammersmith  
Odeon

Larry Blackmon, the leader of Cameo and a rapidly developing auteur in the Atlanta music community, has been ringing the changes since his group's visit here last December. The volume has gone down: the dancing has improved dramatically and he has acquired a large shiny red copcote that has become the talk of the town.

This ostentatious appendage, which almost caused the group to be thrown off *Top of the Pops*, is an appropriate symbol for the sinuous, virile approach that they now emphasize. The main pelvic thrust, which is thrust into such stark relief, usually underlined a sexual reference in the lyrics, and in "Word Up" and the consummate "Single Life" the thick, economic funk riffs poked through with little insistence.

But before Blackmon and his co-vocalists, Nathan Lefant and Thomas Jenkins, settled into this groove there was an odd preamble incorporating snatches of previous Cameo incarnations chosen at random from their 10-year back catalogue: a blast of "black rock 'n' roll", a moment of big-band soul, a brief drum solo, a couple of metal guitar breaks and even a code-reggae tribute to Bob Marley.

The 10-piece backing band played with all the fire and discipline that the Cameo trio in front put into their arresting dance routines. Even with four keyboard players and a horn section at work there was no musical clutter to distract from the sharp rhythms fuelled by the vocalists' hip-hop aerobic steps as they waded into a union rap. "You're Talking Out of the Side of Your Neck."

But Blackmon's complaint of feeling hoarse was reflected in his vocal performance and, one suspects, led to the conclusion of the show after less than an hour, when all the best elements of their act were beginning to escape.

David Sinclair

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

THE TIMES

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26 1986

SPORT 27  
TELEVISION AND RADIO 31

Executive Editor  
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share  
1242.3 (-22.2)  
FT-SE 100  
1575.9 (-27.5)  
Bargains  
20860

USM (Datastream)  
122.94 (-0.27)

THE POUND

US Dollar  
1.4335 (-0.0125)  
W German mark  
2.9365 (-0.0235)  
Trade-weighted  
68.7 (-0.7)

BET wins control

BET, the industrial services group, yesterday won its £109 million contested bid for HAT, the painting group. By the 10.30am closing time, BET had secured 51.9 per cent.

Mr David Telling, chairman of HAT, yesterday met the BET directors and will be writing to HAT shareholders, and employees shortly. Mr Neil Ryder, a director of BET, said that the company was delighted with the result. It showed that despite the recent trend against contested bids, BET's argument about the commercial logic of the bid had been convincing, he added.

Wimpey up

George Wimpey's turnover dipped from £657 million to £634 million in the first half of this year, but pretax profits managed to rise from a revised £9.2 million to £13.2 million. *Temper, page 20*

Tootal ahead

Tootal, the textiles group, raised taxable profits in the six months ending July 31 to £10.1 million from £9.7 million. The dividend was increased to 1.6p from 1.5p. *Temper, page 20*

RMC rises

RMC Group, the building materials producer, reported a 30 per cent increase in pretax profits to £32.1 million for the six months to June 30. Turnover rose from £601.8 million to £687.4 million. The interim dividend is raised from 4.6p to 5p. *Temper, page 20*

Shares halted

After share price movements, Property Trust directors yesterday asked the Stock Exchange to suspend dealings pending a circular to shareholders about a number of conditional acquisitions and other proposals.

Williams wins

The offer on behalf of Williams Holdings for London and Midland Industrials has been declared fully unconditional. Acceptances have been received for 61.65 per cent.

Team view

Courtauld has formed a team to examine performance and long-term growth. The members are Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, Mr Mike Woodhouse, Mr Allan Nightingale, Mr Eryl Morris and Mr Sipko Huismans.

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York 1773.34 (-29.95)  
Dow Jones 1773.34 (-29.95)  
Nikkei Dow 17988.35 (+32.88)  
Hong Kong 2011.70 (+3.40)  
Hang Seng 2011.70 (+3.40)  
Amsterdam Gen 285.0 (-2.3)  
Sydney AO 1250.3 (+14.4)  
Frankfurt  
Commerzbank 1995.2 (-17.8)  
Borsezeit 3704.34 (+7.32)  
Paris CAC 389.3 (+1.5)  
Zurich  
SKA General 520.0 (Same)  
London closing prices Page 23

INTEREST RATES

London  
Bank Base 10%  
3-month interbank 10 1/4-10 1/2%  
3-month eligible bills 10 1/4-10 1/2%  
buying rate  
US  
Prime Rate 7.50%  
Federal Funds 5 1/4-5 1/2%  
3-month Treasury Bills 5.23-5.22%  
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London  
£: \$1.4335  
£: DM2.9365  
£: SwF2.3810  
£: FF9.5182  
£: Yen221.42  
£: Index: 68.7  
New York  
£: \$1.4345  
£: DM2.9455  
£: Index: 110.9  
ECU £0.708671  
SDR £0.834518

Norton Opax bids  
£28m more for  
McCorquodale

Just 24 hours after receiving Monopolies Commission approval, Norton Opax, the printing group, yesterday made a new and final bid for rival specialist printer, McCorquodale.

The latest terms — a one-for-two share swap — value McCorquodale at £138.5 million, a substantial increase on the £110 million offered last time.

The stage is now set for a short, sharp and acrimonious battle. Norton intends that it will last no longer than 21 days from the date its official offer is published, probably next week, though it reserves the right to extend if necessary.

"We want to bring this affair to a close now," said Mr Richard Hanwell, chief executive of Norton Opax.

But the McCorquodale board is even more determined to resist what is seen as an opportunist bid than it was last time. Mr John Holloran, managing director, said yesterday: "The two businesses are totally different. Merging them would do a good deal of damage, and we intend to fight the proposals vigorously."

The stock market regards Norton's latest bid as an

ambitious move by an aggressively run company. The group is proposing to issue three times its current share capital to capture McCorquodale.

Sub-underwriting of the issue was completed yesterday. "It went very well," said a spokesman for Samuel Montagu, financial advisers to Norton Opax.

Norton's profits have increased from £140,000 to £5.2 million over the past five years while earnings per share have increased eightfold. Growth has been achieved organically and by acquisition.

The first offer for McCorquodale was made in March, and a month later it was referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, on Wednesday approved the MMC finding that the merger would not operate against the public interest. But the major clearing banks submitted evidence to the commission that they were lukewarm about a deal which would bring together two suppliers of personalized cheque books.

McCorquodale earned more than a quarter of its profits from cheque and allied printing last year and clearly it would suffer most in the event of a merger if the banks and building societies took some of their business elsewhere.

Mr Holloran is also unhappy about the extent to which Norton's profits arise from printing of lottery tickets, which he regards as "poor quality business, with a good deal of overcapacity."

The terms of the offer are two Norton Opax shares for one of McCorquodale. With Norton Opax shares down 13p to 133p, the deal values McCorquodale shares at 266p each. In the market they rose slightly to close in line with the bid terms.

Samuel Montagu has arranged a cash alternative of 260p for each McCorquodale share.

With the details of its new offer Norton Opax provided a forecast of £5.8 million profits for the year to March, 1987 compared with £5.2 million last time. Dividends are forecast to increase 14 per cent over the same period.



Shake-up at Rover

Mr Harold Masgrove, above, chairman and chief executive of Austin-Rover, was the main casualty in Rover management changes announced yesterday. He retires after 40 years with the group. Mr Mark Snowden, right, managing director for product development, also leaves. Mr Graham Day takes over as chairman of all the chief subsidiaries.



Comment, page 19

Canon may set up base in Britain

Canon, the Japanese photocopier manufacturer, may set up a software research and development base in Britain as part of its expansion programme in Europe.

Mr Yasuyuki Matsuda, a director of Canon (UK), said yesterday that talks were being held about the possibility of establishing a research base, perhaps as a joint venture with a British university. But he could not say when this might happen.

Canon has a strong European presence. Its manufacturing facilities in Germany and France have been expanded recently to assemble 10 new copier models.

Two of the models represent Canon's first entry into the lucrative high volume market, which at present is dominated by Rank Xerox, IBM and Kodak. Canon aims to replace 40 per cent of machines with these new models which can produce more than 70 copies a minute.

These machines are exempt from the 15.8 per cent anti-dumping import duty and will be manufactured in Japan. The other eight models will be manufactured in either Europe or Korea and should not be subject to the duty.

Mr Yukio Yamashita, managing director of Canon (UK), said: "We have not finally decided how we will respond to the levy."

A Japanese investment research group, due in Britain next month, will include representatives of some of the country's biggest and most successful companies.

Mitsubishi, Sumitomo, Citizen, Pioneer, Fuji and Casio will be some of the companies represented by the visiting group.

The representatives, travelling to Britain at British expense, will visit only areas in which they are most interested. A similar mission last year resulted in three new investments.

SEC ready to shorten leash on computer trading

A big review of the role of computers in Wall Street is being carried out after complaints from many traders that they are at the root of the violent price swings that have become almost commonplace this year.

The Securities and Exchange Commission says that it is considering new regulations to curb the growth of 'program trading' by which computers are preset to issue buy or sell orders on huge amounts of stocks without human intervention or modification.

Commission officials are said to have been shaken by the 120 point crash in the Dow Jones industrial average two weeks ago and that is why they

are studying carefully complaints by investors about stock values being driven down artificially.

On a normal day computer programs are thought to control between 10 and 25 per cent of all stock trading on American exchanges. During the record drop on September 11, the machines are thought to have accounted for as much as 40 per cent of trading.

Opinion on Wall Street is divided. Supporters of computer trading say that it adds impetus only to existing trends. Though changes seem more volatile all the computers are doing is concentrating into a single day market corrections which used to take days, even weeks.

Opponents argue that such wild fluctuations frighten small investors out of the market and that computers have brought about the development of a new type of trading which has made ordinary stocks take on the swift, wide swings which once characterised only commodities.

The speed and sophistication of computers has enabled traders to take advantage of price variations which in the pre-electronic age days would have been considered too insignificant.

Several options to bring the situation under control are being considered by the commission.

Funeral company for USM

Death is becoming big business for the stock market. Great Southern Group, one of the country's leading suppliers of funeral services, is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market with a value of £13.1 million. This makes it the third quoted funeral directors after Kenyon Securities and Hodgeson Holdings.

Great Southern has grown, like its rivals, by snapping up the small family-run companies that account for about 65 per cent of the total market.

Mr Ernest Field, the chairman of Great Southern, says that a stock market listing will enable the company to make more acquisitions.

Pretax profits have risen steadily from just over £1 million in 1981 to £1.3 million last year and the directors forecast an outcome of £1.6 million for 1986.

A total of 2.2 million shares, which is 22.7 per cent of the capital, are being placed at 135p a share by Hill Samuel, the merchant banker, to raise £2.94 million.

£1.2m loss at poster company

London and Continental Advertising Holdings, the poster hoarding group, slumped to a £1.2 million pretax loss in the first half of this year, after gearing up for an improvement in the poster business which failed to arrive.

The company, which made profits of £1.4 million in the same period last year, had expected an improvement in the second half.

The chairman, Mr John Goffar, said: "In the event, this has not been realized to date, but group overheads had been increased in anticipation of much greater volumes of business than are being experienced." Some of the group's workers are to be made redundant under a cost reduction programme.

London is passing its interim dividend, having paid 0.75p at this stage last year. Its shares, down from a peak of 185p this year, slid a further 25p to 58p after the results.

Profits surprise from United Newspapers

United Newspapers, the diversified publishing group which acquired Fleet Holdings for £317 million last October, surprised the City yesterday by announcing pretax profits of £22.5 million for the first half of 1986.

The figures, which compared with £19.3 million last year when United held only a minority stake in Fleet, were at the top end of expectations and boosted United shares by 25p to 370p, recouping recent losses.

Mr Graham Wilson, United's finance director, said that the results were helped by the comparative ease with which the group reduced its labour force on the *Daily Express*, the *Sunday Express* and *The Star*.

No production was lost as 2,000 full-time employees left the company in return for a £65 million redundancy package. The redundancies, with the introduction of photo-composition, should save about £48 million a year.

Mr Wilson said the national titles had roughly broken even in the first half but were now trading profitably. However, he admitted United was still trying to improve the circulation of the three papers, which all showed slight falls in the first half compared with the same period last year.

The rest of United's domestic operations proved to be something of a mixed bag. Consumer and advertising magazines, which include *Punch* and *Exchange & Mart*, put in a strong performance and the regional newspaper division showed growth. United's American interests, which range from Fodor's travel guides to a press news service, also showed improved profits. However some of the specialist business magazines suffered from stiff competition for advertising in the first half.

United maintained its interim dividend at 6p.

Glimmer of hope from the Bank

The Bank of England in its latest *Quarterly Bulletin* gives a cautiously optimistic view of the outlook for the world economy. It is closer to the views of the German Bundesbank which believes that world growth is now resuming than that of the United States administration which wants to see lower interest rates.

The Bank says that monetary conditions are difficult to interpret. Although the broader definitions of the money supply have grown faster than the target rates and sterling has been under pressure, narrowly defined money has grown only slowly and interest rates remain high. On balance it believes that there seems to be little scope for "unilateral relaxation".

The pause in growth in the world economy during the first half of this year is now thought to be almost over and the outlook for the next 12-18

Combined English pays £19m

Combined English Stores, the Salisbury's handbag group, snatched another chunk of the high street jewellery business yesterday when it paid £19 million for 107 shops belonging to the Time Products group, trading under the names of J. Weir, Harris, McGowan, and Montague.

CES has only just paid £26 million for Zales Jewellers and is now second in size only to the Ratners-H.Samuel chain.

Time Products says it was this deal which made it decide to pull out of the high street. Chief executive Marcus Margulies says Time Products would have been forced to expand aggressively. Instead, it intends to concentrate on its watch manufacturing and distribution business.

Both companies yesterday unveiled half time figures. Time Products reported profits before tax of £1.3 million compared with £728,000. CES announced that pre-tax profits were up from £3.4 million to £4.9 million.

Threat to loan rates as pound slides further

Fears that interest rates may have to rise resurfaced yesterday as the pound continued its steady decline against most currencies, hitting a record low on the sterling trade-weighted index despite renewed support from the Bank of England.

Meanwhile, stock markets in London and New York dropped sharply as economic uncertainty built up in advance of the Group of Five meeting in Washington today. Sterling weakened against most currencies, but its largest falls were against the dollar and the mark. There were growing expectations that interest rates would have to rise to prevent a sudden collapse in the currency.

A rise in interest rates at this stage would be politically embarrassing to the Government ahead of the huge British Gas share flotation in November.

Traders believe the Bank of England intervened to support the pound at lunchtime, but to little effect, and sterling's decline accelerated.

After an opening of about \$1.4465 in London, the pound sank by 1.2 cents against the dollar to finish at 1.4340. Against the mark it dropped three pence from DM2.9680 to close at DM2.9370.

Other currencies also advanced against the pound, leaving the sterling trade-weighted index down seven points from 69.4 to 68.7.

The mark remained steady against most international currencies after the Bundesbank's decision at its fortnightly meeting yesterday not to alter its credit policy, although it weakened slightly against the dollar.

At the same time, a combination of factors helped to push down share prices in London and New York.

Mr Tim Brown, of the stockbroker Phillips & Drew, said: "The market is nervous, but we are not seeing a panic. The fall was mainly due to a lack of buyers rather than a wave of selling." The FT-30 share index dropped 18.5 points to close at 1,246.1.

The London stock market opened steady after a firm close in New York on Wednesday, but the downward momentum gathered pace as New York opened sharply weaker yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell by nearly 40 points to 1,765.04. Some traders blamed the fall on programme selling by big investors. "That is the only way to interpret this kind of volatility," said one.

But there was also less hope of further discount rate cuts following the Bundesbank's decision not to alter German interest rates. The fall follows three days of steady increases fuelled by hopes of a discount rate cut. Uncertainty over the strength of US economic growth also helped to depress the market.

Group of Five exchange rate agreement likely

The Group of Five finance ministers and central bankers, meeting in Washington today, are expected to agree on a framework for preserving exchange rates around present levels.

The five — the United States, Britain, Germany, Japan and France — will strive for closer co-ordination of economic policy through the use of indicators of economic performance.

They may also — with the agreement of Canada and Italy which, with the five, make up the new Group of Seven — signal a willingness to maintain currency levels by concerted intervention.

The Group of Five meeting, which comes after public wrangles between the US and Germany over interest rates, will discuss the work of officials on key indicators of economic performance.

At the May world economic summit in Tokyo it was agreed to examine a range of ten indicators, including inflation, growth, the balance of payments, money supply and government deficits, with a view to co-ordinating policy on the basis of the performance of these indicators.

The difficulty with this approach, if it is given the go-ahead today, is that it will start from a position of marked world economic imbalances, notably the trade and budget deficits in the US and the large trade surpluses of Japan and Germany.

The European members of the Group of Five will be putting pressure on the Americans to take further action on the budget deficit, and to shift the focus away from competitive interest rate reductions.

The participants are also likely to press for dollar depreciation against newly-industrialized countries such as Taiwan and South Korea.

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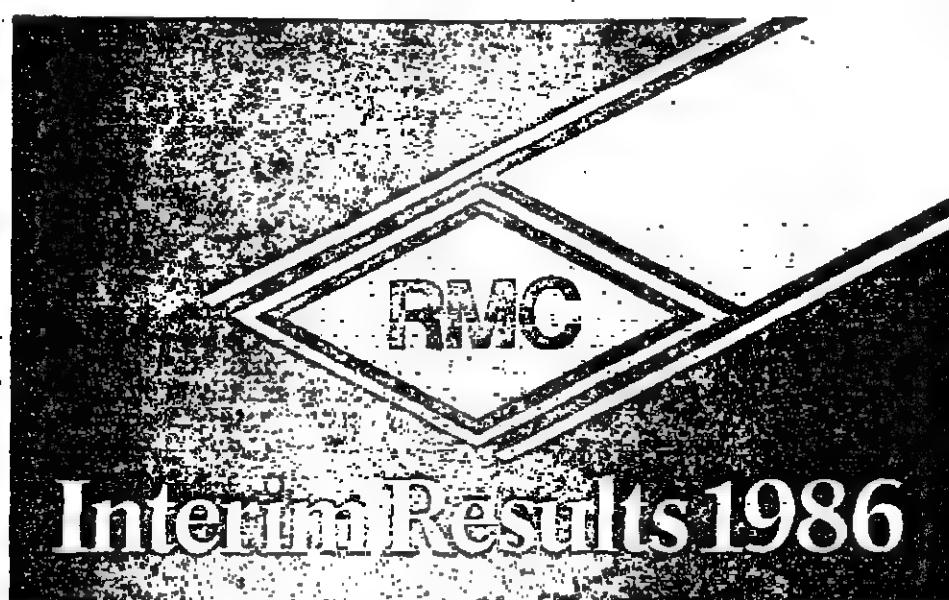
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## Financial Highlights

	6 months to 30.6.86 £m	6 months to 30.6.85 £m	Year to 31.12.85 £m
Turnover	637.4	601.8	1363.8
Operating Profit			
United Kingdom	23.7	20.9	56.0
West Germany	1.7	0.4	12.1
Other countries	11.8	9.9	22.6
	37.2	31.2	90.7
Profit before taxation	35.1	25.4	79.7
Earnings per share	19.9p	14.7p	45.3p

**Dividend** The Directors have decided to declare an interim dividend of 5.0p per share (1985 4.6p per share) payable on 1 December 1986 to shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 31 October 1986.

## RMC Group plc.

RMC House, High Street, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4HA.

## Hotels 'face chaos over tax changes'

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Britain's hotels, many with earnings under pressure from the scarcity of American tourists this year, face two tax changes in November which could also hit profits.

One change, in the way value-added tax rules are applied to conferences and exhibitions, is causing confusion among hoteliers. The British Hotels, Restaurants and Caterers Association is telling its members to consider taking professional advice.

It fears "considerable chaos" as the change in rules approaches, because many hoteliers may not realize the implications of the changes. When they do there is likely to be an increased pressure for the November 1 start date to be postponed until next year.

Where conferences and exhibitions are held in purpose-built centres, offering no

bedroom accommodation, the situation is comparatively straightforward with the main facilities, except for meals, being exempted from VAT.

But hotels with conference and exhibition facilities have stayed within the VAT system, enabling them to pass on to customers a proportion of VAT charges.

Many hotels will lose the advantages of being wholly within the VAT system, making them partially exempt businesses, but with the detail often differing in individual cases.

Another change facing hotels is the removal of a concession which meant block bookings by holiday tour operators have been treated as long-term rentals which do not attract VAT.

From November, VAT will be levied on these

## Honeywell in computer link talks

Minneapolis (Reuters) - Honeywell, the United States computer company, is holding talks with two foreign companies about combining their computer businesses.

The discussions - there had been considerable speculation that they were taking place - involve Groupe Bull of France and NEC of Japan, companies with which Honeywell has been closely associated.

The announcement came after several sharp one-day gains in Honeywell's stock after analysts predicted a major restructuring. Honeywell was up \$1 1/4 to \$73 in active morning trading yesterday. Honeywell said the restructuring would allow it to concentrate on its more profitable operations - automation and control equipment and aerospace and defence contracts.

## Tax relief delays hit BES deals

By Lawrence Lever

Delays by the Inland Revenue in briefing local tax inspectors over the new rules for the Business Expansion Scheme are blocking companies seeking to raise money under the scheme and denying investors tax relief.

The delays are likely to cause considerable disquiet within the Treasury since Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, deliberately highlighted the BES in his Budget speech and is an ardent public supporter of the scheme.

The BES allows investors tax relief on their investments in a broad range of unquoted companies. The scheme was substantially revised in this year's Finance Act.

Mr John Dodwell, the managing director of Chancery Corporate Services, an established sponsor of BES companies, said yesterday that

the Inland Revenue is currently denying tax relief to shareholders in one of his BES issues who invested after the budget when the new regime was announced.

In addition, a number of accountancy firms claim that the local inspectorate is refusing to grant provisional BES approval to companies seeking to raise money under the scheme in all but the most clear cut of cases.

In both situations the delays are caused because the local inspectors are refusing to take decisions until they have received new guidance notes on the BES from the technical division of the Inland Revenue.

A spokesman for the Inland Revenue confirmed yesterday that the guidelines had not been sent.

## COMPANY NEWS

**CENTRAL INDEPENDENT TELEVISION**: Half-year to June 30. Interim dividend increased to 4p (2.5p) to reduce the disparity between payments. It will be paid on Nov. 7. Turnover £35.77 million (£27.79 million). Pretax profit £5.31 million (£2.56 million). Earnings per share 13p (5.7p).

**W & R JACOB**: Interim dividend 2.3p (2p) for the 28 weeks to July 11. Pretax profit £234,000 (£271,000), against £231,500. Turnover £227.05 million (£227.42 million). Earnings per share (adjusted for rights issue) 3.3p (2.9p). The board expects good profits growth in the current year.

**EUCALYPTUS PULP MILLS**: Half-year to June 30. Turnover £14.49 million (£13.52 million). Pretax profit £1.92 million (£2.32 million). Earnings per share 46.3p (48.1p).

**BENTALLS**: Half-year to Aug. 2. Interim dividend 0.44p (0.4p). Turnover (excluding VAT) £29.05 million (£27.8 million). Pretax profit £22,000 (£313,000). Earnings per share 1.11p (1.21p).

**ALEXANDERS HOLDINGS**: Terms have been agreed with Murray International Holdings (which with associates now holds 8.2 per cent of the ordinary capital) for the disposal of a property in Edinburgh. The sale price is £380,000, payable next March. This will result in a surplus of £200,000 over book value.

**ABERDEEN CONSTRUCTION**: Interim dividend 2.4p (2.3p) for the half-year to June 30, payable on Nov. 21. Turnover £47.78 million (£47.58 million). Pretax profit £1.64 million (£1.44 million). Earnings per share 6.24p (5.10p).

**NOBLE AND LUND**: Pretax profit for the first half of 1986 £344,000 (£48,000 loss). Turnover £5.19 million (£4.64 million). Interim dividend held at 0.35p. Earnings per share basic 4.46p (0.75p loss) and fully diluted 3.56p (0.75p loss).

**WHATMAN REEVE ANGEL**: Interim dividend 1p - a 21.95 per cent increase. Turnover for the first half of 1986 £16.94 million (£16.99 million). Pretax profit £3.1 million (£2.66 million). Earnings per share 8.33p (6.51p).

**MAI**: Year to June 30. Total dividend 17.5p (16p). Turnover £222.05 million (£171.57 million). Pretax profit £40.03 million (£27.44 million). Earnings per share 48.1p (41.6p). The buoyant conditions of the second half of last year have continued into the current year, the board declares. All divisions are enjoying active markets and good demand.

**SANDHURST MARKET-DING**: Six months to July 31. Interim dividend unchanged at 3.85 per cent. Turnover £15.89 million (£14.04 million). Pretax profit £601,000 (£610,000). Earnings per share 1.28p (1.28p) and diluted 1.35p (1.35p).

**FERRY PICKERING GROUP**: Total dividend for the year to June 30 raised to 3.5p (2.75p adjusted). Turnover £12.58 million (£11.63 million). Pretax profit £2.09 million (£1.6 million). Earnings per share 10.79p (8.05p adjusted).

**HIGHCROFT INVESTMENT TRUST**: Interim dividend raised to 1p (0.9p), payable on Nov. 7. Pretax profit £246,387 (£181,083) for the six months to June 30. Earnings per share 2.97p (2.07p).

**DOWDING & MILLS**: Total dividend for the year to June 30 raised to 1.58p (1.4p). Turnover £28.39 million (£25 million). Pretax profit £4.13 million (£3.51 million). Earnings per share 3.86p (3.15p). The board is confident that earnings will again improve in the current year.

**CORTON BEACH**: Pretax profits jumped by 108 per cent to £302,190 in the 26 weeks to Aug. 2. Turnover reached £7.63 million - up 97 per cent. Earnings per share increased by 64 per cent to 1.12p. The company aims to return to the dividend list and a final for the current is expected.

**F & C PACIFIC INVESTMENT TRUST**: Half-year to July 31. Interim dividend 0.6p (same). Total revenue £1.95 million (£1.71 million). Earnings per share 1.14p (1.42p).

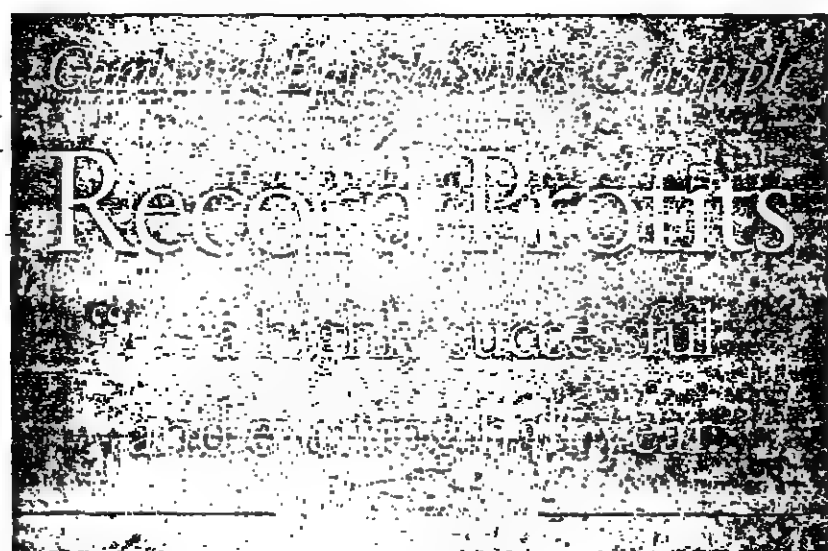
**GIBSON LYONS GROUP**: Agreement has been reached for the acquisition of Eden Colours. The founder-members of Eden are remaining with the company, which will continue to supply printers in Kent, Sussex and south London with its Europa series of process inks and specialist colours.

**ASSET TRUST**: First half of 1986. Interim payment 1p (0.75p), payable on Nov. 17. Turnover £298,092. Pretax profit £218,797. No comparative figures have been shown as the company has changed its status from an authorized investment trust to a fund management business. The company now manages £140 million of funds for private clients and institutions.

**ASTBURY & MADELEY**: First half of 1986. Interim dividend 1.25p (1.125p), payable on Nov. 28. Turnover £13.39 million (£12.52 million). Pretax profit £1 million (£891,000). Earnings per share 6.77p (5.63p).

**RAMAR TEXTILES**: Dividend raised to 1.75p (1.65p) for the year to May 30. It will be paid on Jan. 8. Turnover £24.55 million (£21.02 million). Pretax profit £934,000 (£750,000). Earnings per share: basic 4.75p (5.29p) and fully diluted 3.71p (4.14p).

More company news on page 21



## Interim Highlights

28 weeks ended 31 August 1986

Unaudited		1986	1985
<b>Profit before tax</b>			
before deducting the share of losses of the Group's subsidiary	+59	£3.47m	£3.45m
after deducting the Group's share	+43	£1.93m	£3.45m
<b>Earnings</b>			
per Ordinary share	+34	4.98p	3.71p
<b>Dividend</b>			
per Ordinary share	+22	3.0p	2.45p

With the addition of the Department Store & Fashion Chains, acquired since the formation of the Group, now operate 5 major retailing divisions in the UK, Ireland, Europe and Overseas including:

## Selling Divisions

Collingwood and Zeds Jewellers

Allens Chemists

Biba Fashion Group (West Germany)

Ridge Fashion Group

These divisions currently have 752 outlets. Through organic growth alone, that number is planned to increase to 1,100 over the next few years.

If you would like a copy of the 1986 Annual Report, please apply to:  
The Company Secretary  
Combined English Stores Limited  
14 City Street  
London W1H 1PS  
Telephone 01-464 1131

Combined  
English  
Stores  
Group plc

“OUR MAIN objectives in recent years, those of improved competitiveness coupled with a programme of investments in new products, have combined to produce another set of excellent figures”

DAVID DONNE CHAIRMAN

HALF YEAR TO 30TH JUNE	1986	1985	INCREASE
PROFITS BEFORE TAXATION	£18.811m	£16.099m	+17%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	18.88p	16.65p	+21%



STEELEY'S PLC GATFORD HILL, WARRASOP, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE S81 8AT



# Share prices in 22-point fall as nervous investors sell

By Carol Leonard

The stock market took another nosedive yesterday with traders looking in vain to the Bank of England and the foreign exchange markets for some form of lead.

As sterling weakened still further, despite heavy intervention by the Bank of England, gilts lost about £1 around the medium and long-dated stocks and £1 in the shorts.

Equity traders were left wondering which way to turn

Mr Terry Ramsden, the financier, has now sold his stake in Pearson - he served to be about 4 per cent - and says he "no longer has any interest." There is talk that he has sold the holding to interested parties in the Far East - who include Mr Li Ka-shing, the chairman of Hutchison Whampoa and Sir Y K Pao, the Hong Kong shipping magnate.

next. One experienced market man commented: "I've been in this game for a long time and I've never under stood it less."

The FT 30 share index began the day down 5.8 and finished at its lowest point, 22.2 points down at 1,242.3. The FT-SE 100 share index showed an even bleaker picture, tumbling by 27.5 points to 1,575.9.

Deutsche, which operates a 1,000-share index, said it had fallen by 13.48 points to 874.11 by 5pm - wiping £4.5 billion off the value of stocks.

Among leading blue chips, Royal Insurance was hit hardest, dropping 25p to 79p, with jobbers aware that the 500,000 shares bought by Goldman Sachs as part of the Philip Hill Investment Trust

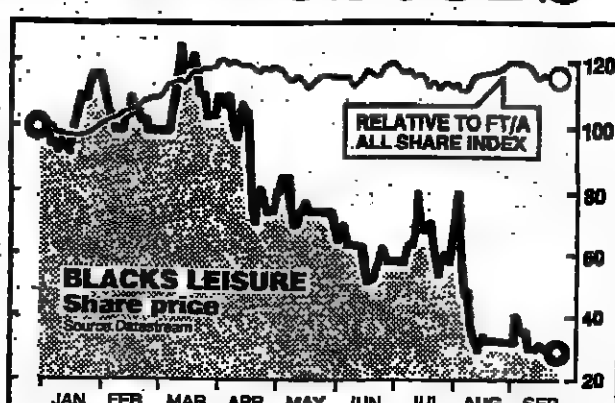
package were still overhanging the market.

American favourite, Glaxo tumbled a further 22p to 930p. ICI fell 15p to 1,077p. GKN was down 10p at 254p and so was Blue Circle at 551p, despite talk that AJ Bekhor, the broker, was in the market, buying on behalf of an Australian client.

Even the market newcomer, TSB, eased a shade in the unofficial "grey" market. Cleveland Securities, a licensed dealer, was last night quoting the partly-paid 50p shares at 90p, while Price Harwin priced them at 91p. The level of oversubscription should be known later today.

The rest of the banking sector was mixed, with Bank of Scotland putting on 12p to 449p, while the other cleaners were lower. Barclays dipped 8p to 479p. National Westminster 5p to 539p and both Lloyds and Midland eased 3p, to 439p and 564p respectively.

Blacks Leisure, the camping goods retailer where Sears has 10 days to go before the close of its £3.3-million takeover bid, is, I hear, drawing up plans for survival on its own should the Sears bid fail. The talk is that its directors are planning a £2.5 million rights issue as part of a financial restructuring package and are lining up a number of deals to



inject fresh life into the business.

Their plans may even incorporate the business run by Mr Phil Edmonds, the England cricketer, who also tried to buy Blacks.

Blacks' shareholders, who now have little to lose, could well be advised to sit tight. Blacks' shares were up 4p to 111.5p. There is talk that the company has already made a bid approach to the company at 210p a share, but that it has been turned down by Sir Lawrence Burrell, who wants more money.

The story might explain talk of a rights issue with yesterday's Wimpey results - which failed to materialize. Wimpey ended the day down 7p at 204p. Elsewhere in the

so far sold a couple of hundred tonnes.

He is selling it a £39.75 a tonne, against British prices of £43 a tonne. It must also be bad news for cement producers like Blue Circle which controls more than 50 per cent of the British market.

The depressed mood of the market caught even Barratt Developments, which did so well the previous day on its results. The shares came back 2p to 158p. There is talk that Wimpey has already made a bid approach to the company at 210p a share, but that it has been turned down by Sir Lawrence Burrell, who wants more money.

The story might explain talk of a rights issue with yesterday's Wimpey results - which failed to materialize. Wimpey ended the day down 7p at 204p. Elsewhere in the

building sector, HAT Group, which failed in its attempts to get away from BET, firmed a couple of pence to 137p. BET lost 3p to 385p.

Shares in Pentland Industries firmed by 20p to 450p after a bullish forecast by Reebok International, its 37 per cent-owned US athletic shoe-making associate. In the first half of 1986, Pentland earned some 85 per cent of its pretax profits from Reebok, whose products adorn the feet of thousands of American "yuppies".

Reebok is predicting that earnings per share will top analysts' estimates of \$2.30 this year and should then grow by 25 per cent a year until 1989 when annual sales

should reach \$2 billion (£1.4 billion). Television contractors were a strong feature after Central Independent Television announced that its pretax earnings had more than doubled to £5.3 million. Central gained 21p to 346p, while HTV firmed 17p in sympathy to 340p.

Others to show gains included LWT and TVS, each 5p higher at 395p and 240p respectively. United Newspapers, where Mr David Stevens is chairman, jumped 25p to 370p after producing results at the top end of City expectations.

Stores had another bad day, on expectations of an interest rate rise with John Menzies, the newsgate, 7p lower at 24.3p. Marks and Spencer, down 5p at 192p. Sainsbury 5p off at 310p. WH Smith 6p down at 268p and Kates 3p down at 213p.

Life insurance companies tumbled even further with Pearl Assurance 30p off at 1.448p. The Prudential Corporation 18p lower at 804p. Britannic 13p down at 804p and Legal and General 8p lower at 228p. Composite insurers were similarly afflicted. General Accident slid a full 20p to 799p, Guardian Royal 12p to 772p and Commercial Union 4p to 275p.

Siebe continued to suffer from the effects of its massive rights issue earlier in the week and fell a further 15p to 75p. Wellcome, after firming a penny early on, slid 4p to 195p on profit-taking after the encouraging news about its anti-AIDS drug. Other drug companies were also lower.

## RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price
Anglo Sacs (115p)	182
BBS Design (67p)	70
Beaverco (145p)	150
Brand 5 (43p)	54
Chelston Labs (125p)	129
Creighton Labs (130p)	165
Euro Home (150p)	138-3
Eve Construction (105p)	108
Fletcher Dennis (70p)	82
Guthrie Corp (105p)	105
Harrison (150p)	150-1
Hill Ergonom (92p)	88

Company	Price
Hughes Food (20p)	24
Local Lon Co	24
M6 Cash & C (100p)	93
Marina Dev (110p)	98
Newsday Trade (75p)	82
Sandell Perkins (135p)	157
Scott Mfg 100% (25p)	221-1
Stanley Leisure (110p)	110
Thames TV (180p)	182
Treasure 2016 (87p)	234-1
Unilink (85p)	86
Yorkshire TV (125p)	130-1

Company	Price
Barkeley Tech F/P	215-4
Bocals N/P	145-1
Brown & Taves F/P	10-3
Canal Venture N/P	1-1
Christy Hunt N/P	3-2
New Cat Net N/P	336-7
Seaboard F/P	48
Tipitron N/P	48

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Market rates	Market rates
1 month	3 months
1 year	2 years
3 years	4 years
5 years	10 years
15 years	20 years
25 years	30 years
35 years	40 years
45 years	50 years
55 years	60 years
65 years	70 years
75 years	80 years
85 years	90 years
95 years	100 years

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Starting	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Dec 86	89.32	89.35	89.35	89.37	2627
Mar 87	89.46	89.46	89.46	89.46	321
Jun 87	89.61	89.61	89.61	89.61	89
Dec 87	89.65	89.65	89.65	89.65	89
Mar 88	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	89
Jun 88	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	89
Previous day's total open interest	12845				
Three Month Eurodollar	84.01	84.03	84.03	84.03	4617
Dec 86	84.01	84.03	84.03	84.03	4617
Mar 87	84.01	84.03	84.03	84.03	4617
Jun 87	84.01	84.03	84.03	84.03	4617
Dec 87	84.01	84.03	84.03	84.03	4617
Mar 88	84.01	84.03	84.03	84.03	4617
Jun 88	84.01	84.03	84.03	84.03	4617
Previous day's total open interest	5282				
10 Treasury Bond	86.15	86.05	86.05	86.11	0
Dec 86	86.15	86.05	86.05	86.11	0
Mar 87	86.15	86.05	86.05	86.11	0
Jun 87	86.15	86.05	86.05	86.11	0
Dec 87	86.15	86.05	86.05	86.11	0
Mar 88	86.15	86.05	86.05	86.11	0
Jun 88	86.15	86.05	86.05	86.11	0
Previous day's total open interest	1498				
Short Gilt	96.45	96.45	96.45	96.45	400
Dec 86	96.45	96.45	96.45	96.45	400
Mar 87	96.45	96.45	96.45	96.45	400
Jun 87	96.45	96.45	96.45	96.45	400
Dec 87	96.45	96.45	96.45	96.45	400
Mar 88	96.45	96.45	96.45	96.45	400
Jun 88	96.45	96.45	96.45	96.45	400
Previous day's total open interest	1498				
Long Gilt	111.05	111.05	111.05	111.05	0
Dec 86	111.05	111.05	111.05	111.05	0
Mar 87	111.05	111.05	111.05	111.05	0
Jun 87	111.05	111.05	111.05	111.05	0
Dec 87	111.05	111.05	111.05	111.05	0
Mar 88	111.05	111.05	111.05	111.05	0
Jun 88	111.05	111.05	111.05	111.05	0
Previous day's total open interest	222				
FT-45 Index	162.10	162.30	162.30	162.30	382
Dec 86	162.10	162.30	162.30	162.30	382
Mar 87	162.10	162.30	162.30	162.30	382
Jun 87	162.10	162.30	162.30	162.30	382
Dec 87	162.10	162.30	162.30	162.30	382
Mar 88	162.10	162.30	162.30	162.30	382
Jun 88	162.10	162.30	162.30	162.30	382
Previous day's total open interest	1498				

## TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
Jan 87	Jan 87	Jan 87	Jan 87
Feb 87	Feb 87	Feb 87	Feb 87
Mar 87	Mar 87	Mar 87	Mar 87
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Aug 97	Aug 97	Aug 97	Aug 97
Sep 97	Sep 97	Sep 97	Sep 97



WALL STREET		LONDON		NEW YORK	
Index	Change	Index	Change	Index	Change
Dow Jones	-16.87	FTSE 100	+1.78	Dow Jones	+1.78
S&P 500	-1.78	FTSE 250	+1.78	S&P 500	+1.78
Nikkei 225	+1.78	FTSE 350	+1.78	Nikkei 225	+1.78
Hong Kong	+1.78	FTSE 450	+1.78	Hong Kong	+1.78
Shanghai	+1.78	FTSE 550	+1.78	Shanghai	+1.78
Beijing	+1.78	FTSE 650	+1.78	Beijing	+1.78
Taipei	+1.78	FTSE 750	+1.78	Taipei	+1.78
Seoul	+1.78	FTSE 850	+1.78	Seoul	+1.78
Manila	+1.78	FTSE 950	+1.78	Manila	+1.78
Bangkok	+1.78	FTSE 1050	+1.78	Bangkok	+1.78
Colombo	+1.78	FTSE 1150	+1.78	Colombo	+1.78
Kuala Lumpur	+1.78	FTSE 1250	+1.78	Kuala Lumpur	+1.78
Jakarta	+1.78	FTSE 1350	+1.78	Jakarta	+1.78
Singapore	+1.78	FTSE 1450	+1.78	Singapore	+1.78
Calcutta	+1.78	FTSE 1550	+1.78	Calcutta	+1.78
Rangoon	+1.78	FTSE 1650	+1.78	Rangoon	+1.78
Yokohama	+1.78	FTSE 1750	+1.78	Yokohama	+1.78
Osaka	+1.78	FTSE 1850	+1.78	Osaka	+1.78
Tokyo	+1.78	FTSE 1950	+1.78	Tokyo	+1.78
London	+1.78	FTSE 2050	+1.78	London	+1.78
Paris	+1.78	FTSE 2150	+1.78	Paris	+1.78
Frankfurt	+1.78	FTSE 2250	+1.78	Frankfurt	+1.78
Berlin	+1.78	FTSE 2350	+1.78	Berlin	+1.78
Munich	+1.78	FTSE 2450	+1.78	Munich	+1.78
Zurich	+1.78	FTSE 2550	+1.78	Zurich	+1.78
Geneva	+1.78	FTSE 2650	+1.78	Geneva	+1.78
Basel	+1.78	FTSE 2750	+1.78	Basel	+1.78
Vienna	+1.78	FTSE 2850	+1.78	Vienna	+1.78
Brussels	+1.78	FTSE 2950	+1.78	Brussels	+1.78
Ams	+1.78	FTSE 3050	+1.78	Ams	+1.78
Stockholm	+1.78	FTSE 3150	+1.78	Stockholm	+1.78
Copenhagen	+1.78	FTSE 3250	+1.78	Copenhagen	+1.78
Helsinki	+1.78	FTSE 3350	+1.78	Helsinki	+1.78
Tallinn	+1.78	FTSE 3450	+1.78	Tallinn	+1.78
Riga	+1.78	FTSE 3550	+1.78	Riga	+1.78
Vilnius	+1.78	FTSE 3650	+1.78	Vilnius	+1.78
Kiev	+1.78	FTSE 3750	+1.78	Kiev	+1.78
Moscow	+1.78	FTSE 3850	+1.78	Moscow	+1.78
Novosibirsk	+1.78	FTSE 3950	+1.78	Novosibirsk	+1.78
Omsk	+1.78	FTSE 4050	+1.78	Omsk	+1.78
Krasnoyarsk	+1.78	FTSE 4150	+1.78	Krasnoyarsk	+1.78
Irkutsk	+1.78	FTSE 4250	+1.78	Irkutsk	+1.78
Chita	+1.78	FTSE 4350	+1.78	Chita	+1.78
Ulan-Ude	+1.78	FTSE 4450	+1.78	Ulan-Ude	+1.78
Yakutsk	+1.78	FTSE 4550	+1.78	Yakutsk	+1.78
Verkhne-Kamensk	+1.78	FTSE 4650	+1.78	Verkhne-Kamensk	+1.78
Zhigansk	+1.78	FTSE 4750	+1.78	Zhigansk	+1.78
Verkhne-Aldan	+1.78	FTSE 4850	+1.78	Verkhne-Aldan	+1.78
Verkhne-Tura	+1.78	FTSE 4950	+1.78	Verkhne-Tura	+1.78
Verkhne-Ulen	+1.78	FTSE 5050	+1.78	Verkhne-Ulen	+1.78
Verkhne-Chara	+1.78	FTSE 5150	+1.78	Verkhne-Chara	+1.78
Verkhne-Khaila	+1.78	FTSE 5250	+1.78	Verkhne-Khaila	+1.78
Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78	FTSE 5350	+1.78	Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78
Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78	FTSE 5450	+1.78	Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78
Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78	FTSE 5550	+1.78	Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78
Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78	FTSE 5650	+1.78	Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78
Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78	FTSE 5750	+1.78	Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78
Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78	FTSE 5850	+1.78	Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78
Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78	FTSE 5950	+1.78	Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78
Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78	FTSE 6050	+1.78	Verkhne-Khatanga	+1.78

## Nigerian windfall for British companies

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A number of UK companies, led by British Caledonian, could find themselves millions of pounds better off as the result of an important relaxation of foreign exchange controls by Nigeria.

From Monday, foreign companies with earnings in Nigerian naira will be able to take part in a foreign exchange auction which will allow them to repatriate profits from local transactions almost immediately.

Previously, foreign companies operating in Nigeria have had their earnings tied up in the local currency for up to six months before being able to convert into hard international currencies.

In the case of BCal, which operates about 10 flights a week to the Nigerian cities of Lagos and Kano and claims to have one of the biggest first-class 747 cabins in operation in the world, as much as £60 million in extra earnings has been held up.

According to reports from Lagos, earnings of foreign companies will be protected until the end of this month against devaluation of the naira by the setting of an official exchange rate of 65 US cents, the equivalent of 2.23 naira to the pound.

Next week, a second tier market will begin with companies able to bid once a week for foreign exchange at rates that will fluctuate with demand.

The two-tier system was established after agreement with the International Monetary Fund which should lead to rescheduling of the country's \$13 billion of medium and long term debt.

BCal, which employs more than 100 people in Nigeria and has about 10 offices in the country, confirmed that the £60 million tied up in Lagos would remain subject to existing controls.

But from next week, the company should be able to remit its earnings on a weekly basis rather than see them languishing in a Nigerian bank and prey to devaluation.

## Blow for rival OTC market

By Lawrence Lever

Plans for a group of licensed dealers to set up an over-the-counter exchange to rival the Stock Exchange Third Market have been heavily revised because the company owning the market-making systems the OTC dealers planned to use has ceased trading.

"We are now progressing slowly," Mr Tom Wilmot, chairman of Harvard Securities, and one of the prime movers behind the proposed rival exchange, said yesterday.

There was originally going to be a formula whereby we offered a prospectus to acquire the assets of OTC Information. But we didn't move as fast as we could have done, and OTC Information has now ceased trading.

OTC Information, according to Mr Wilmot, is a market-making and trading system and a pricing service. It used to publish details of Harvard trading companies' share prices.

Instead of the £300,000 which the dealers and other OTC practitioners were going to put up to develop the proposed exchange, they are looking at other courses — such as selling partly paid seats in the exchange — to raise between £30,000 and £40,000.

Mr Wilmot says that this money will be used to examine and develop suitable market-making and price information systems for the proposed exchange.

## TEMPUS

## Wimpey may still have to settle for solid silver

Mr Cliff Cherwood, chairman and chief executive of George Wimpey must have the words "there will be no jostling contracts" engraved upon his heart. He takes a personal interest in ensuring that this maxim is closely followed. The objective is to improve the return earned on what amounts to nearly half of group turnover. Given the vagaries of the building industry this may be easier said than done.

Margins in building and civil engineering are still wafer thin although the cash generated can be well used for housing and property development. Overseas work has fallen by more than a third but the British order book, which is twice the size, is slightly ahead.

Lack of activity has had a detrimental effect on the engineering, offshore and marine division. Changes are being considered which should ensure its continued competitiveness.

Mr Chetwood is a modest man; he does not mind if Wimpey is not the largest householder in the United Kingdom this year. With turnover aiming to complete at least 10,500 units, Wimpey may take only the silver medal. Mr Chetwood is keen, however, to provide buyers with a good product and shareholders with an acceptable return.

Estimates suggest that housing accounted for more than half of interim trading profits of £24.6 million. Timber frame and first time buyers still account for 40 per cent and 30 per cent of sales respectively. In the South-east (60 per cent of the business) the average selling price is well under £40,000.

Under the present chairman, progress has been made in improving the quality of Wimpey's earnings. However, profits still represent a small proportion of the group's £1.5 billion turnover.

Ever demanding, the City has already discounted 1986 profits in the £65-£70 million range and is focusing its attention on the longer term. Acquisitions are a distinct possibility with housing, property, waste management and leisure being suitable areas for expansion.

If Wimpey's prospects begin to look uncertain again, the existence of the Grove Charity stake, now reduced to 35 per cent, will no doubt fuel takeover speculation. In the meantime, the shares have risen far enough.

**Tootal Group**

Tootal's management, having seen off an unwelcome bid from Entrad last year, has been concentrating its collective mind on the future.

The new strategy, gradually unveiled over the last few months, hinges on the creation of a service and distribution-led business.

Instead of heavy manufacturing, which Tootal has abandoned over the years, the emphasis is to be on marketing textiles to the West made largely by low cost producers in the Far East. Tootal aims to be the leading supplier in its chosen markets.

In the thread division, which provides more than 40 per cent of total sales, the mini-mill concept is being introduced to provide customers with maximum service.

Tootal also intends to grab back the 40 per cent of its American thread sales that go through distributors.

The new strategy entails substantial expenditure on people. An outlay of £1 million is being made this year on marketing men for specialized materials, or non-

## RMC Group

For a company whose principal profit earner is something as unsexy as ready-mixed concrete, RMC Group certainly has a habit of reporting glamorous results. Yesterday's figures were 10 per cent ahead of best expectations.

The policy of broadening its spread of interests has held the group in good stead. Profit increases were enjoyed virtually across the board.

As a significant user of cement, RMC Group watches imports with interest. However, its position remains unchanged: if a competitor uses imported cement, then RMC would feel obliged to follow suit.

Expansion continues at Great Mills (DIY) which now has 51 stores. Six have been opened this year, with a further 14 in the pipeline. Premises are rented so the cost of this expansion should not be exorbitant. Builders' merchandising is also doing well.

Demand in France was strong, reflecting increased confidence.

United States profits were ahead in sterling terms and by the end of the year should show an improvement on last year's estimated profit of \$10 million (£6.8 million).

In the longer term, this is an obvious growth area. The group is still on the look out for aggregates or concrete products acquisitions both in the US and Europe.

The main boost to RMC's profits this year and next will come from West Germany. A severe fall off in demand in 1984/85 caught the industry unaware. Now volumes have levelled out, although prices are rather weak.

However, the strategy of reducing overheads in response to lower demand is having the desired effect on the bottom line. RWK's lime sales are depressed as a strong mark is damaging the export market. By next year, German profits should be more than £24 million.

This year, RMC Group should have little trouble making pretax profits of £95 million.

Looking further ahead, the fundamentals still look good, while the UK business will be a prime beneficiary of any pre/post election spending.

## Dow falls sharply in early trade

New York (Reuters) — Wall Street share prices dropped sharply in early trading yesterday, ending the rally that began on Monday.

A strong bond rally failed to ignite trading as investors continued to look for leadership in a market which remains uncertain about the future of the United States economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 16.87 at 1,786.42.

Declining issues led advancing issues by a margin of nearly two to one, on a volume of 15 million shares.

Anderson Clayton led the active shares, up 1/4 to 64 1/2. Bear Stearns and Cross dropped its attempt to buy the company.

Traders said the market continued to be overshadowed by the sharp sell-off this month. One trader said: "This is a very nervous market."

He said a weak technology sector and the failure of West Germany to cut its discount rate may have contributed to the early selling.

The transportation average dropped 6.75 points to 785.38, utilities were down 0.88 points at 203.28 and stocks lost 5.91 points to 705.92.

The Standard and Poors 100 index was down 2.3 points at 221.73, while the S and P composite index had lost 2.11 points to hit 234.77.

10%

OPERATING PROFITS UP

# Wimpey half-year results.

17%

DIVIDENDS UP

All the signs are there for the second half. **WIMPEY**

FOR THE FULL INTERIM REPORT WRITE TO ANGUS MILLER, GEORGE WIMPEY PLC, 26-28 HAMMERSMITH GROVE, LONDON W6 7EN.

## Superdrug

### HALF YEAR REPORT

26 weeks to 30th August 1986 (unaudited)

	1986 26 weeks to 30 August £m	1985 26 weeks to 31 August £m
Turnover (Ex VAT)	93,483	75,006
Trading Profit	5,512	4,323
Net Interest (Payable)/Receivable	(329)	338
Net Profit before Tax	5,183	4,661
Taxation	2,073	1,731
Net Profit After Tax	3,110	2,930
Earnings per Share	8.87p	8.36p
Earnings per Share - Fully Taxed Basis	8.87p	7.55p
Dividend per Share	2.3p	2.0p

- Sales increased by 24.63%.
- Trading profit increased by 27.58%.
- 20 new stores opened in the period.
- At least another 25 stores to open in the second half of the year.
- Own Label now accounting for one third of turnover.
- Another record year anticipated.

Copies of the Half Year Report are available from the Secretary, Superdrug Stores PLC, Boddington Lane, Croydon, Surrey CR9 4TB.



# Superdrug set for record profits

## COMPANY NEWS

Superdrug Stores, the retail chemist company which made a dazzling stock market debut in February, 1983, has reported interim pretax profits 11.2 per cent higher at £3.2 million on sales 24.6 per cent higher.

The company said that comparisons with the previous first half were difficult to make because of the introduction of the northern warehouse operation. It was confident of record sales and profits in the full year.

The increase in turnover was achieved with nil price inflation. New stores contributed 15.5 per cent growth and existing stores 9.1 per cent. The company has opened 20 stores since March, and it will have 300 by the end of the year.

### In brief

● **SCOTTISH, ENGLISH AND EUROPEAN TEXTILES:** Mr J Mackenzie, the chairman, told the annual meeting that management accounts for the first four months of the current year showed a downturn in turnover and profitability compared with the similar period last year. However, the main autumn selling season has started later than usual and sampling has only just begun. So it is too early to assess results from this.

● **SCOTT & ROBERTSON:** First half of 1986. Interim dividend 1p (0.9p), payable on Dec. 1. Turnover £10.81 million (£9.81 million). Pretax profit £825,000 (£602,000). Earnings per share, adjusted, 7.21p (3.27p). The second-half results will not reflect an increase comparable to the first, but the board is confident that the outcome for 1986 should be better than 1985 by a significant margin.

● **SINTROM:** Interim dividend held at 0.75p, payable on Nov. 14, for the six months to June 30. Turnover £8 million (£7.95 million). Pretax profit £589,000 (£717,000). Earnings per share 4.2p (5.0p).

● **READYMIX:** Six months to June 30. Pretax profit £255,000 (£51,000), against a loss of £123,000 last time. Turnover £77.72 million (£78.49 million). Earnings per share 0.14p (loss 0.32p).

● **ANGLO-EASTERN PLANTATIONS:** Six months to June 30. Turnover £724,000 (£303,000). Pretax profit £38,000 (£30,000).

● **DOWDING & MILLS:** The company has agreed to buy Electric Motor Services, a private company in Ashford, Kent, for £350,000 in cash.

● **SPACE PLANNING SERVICES:** Year to June 30. No dividend. Turnover £2 million (£1.48 million). Pretax profit £440,790 (£286,497). Earnings per share 5.95p (3.69p).

● **MURRAY VENTURES:** Total dividend raised to 8.5p (5.5p) for the year to July 31. Proposed one-for-one scrip issue. The board expects to recommend dividends for the current year of not less than 10p - equivalent to not less than 5p following the proposed scrip. Pretax revenue £1.33 million (£983,000). Earnings per share 8.78p (6.10p).

● **TITAGHUR JUTE FACTORY:** No dividend (same) for the year to June 30. Turnover £45.85 million (£30.13 million). Net loss £12.53 million (£4.78 million). Loss per ordinary stock unit 88.10p (337.15p).

● **SPRINTA AUTOMOTIVE AND ENGINEERING PRODUCTS:** Half-year to July 31. Interim dividend 0.9p (0.82p), payable on Nov. 11. Turnover £3.08 million (£2.63 million). Pretax profit £197,000 (£215,000). Earnings per share 2.23p (2.10p).

● **HIERMAN GROUP:** Half-year to June 30. No interim dividend as stated in the listing particulars. Pretax profit £763,000 (£702,000), against a loss of £164,044 million (£149,311 million). Earnings per share 0.94p (£5.49p loss).

● **JOHNSON & JORGENSEN PACKAGING:** Half-year to June 30. Interim dividend raised to 1.35p (1.25p), payable on Oct. 31. Turnover £7.03 million (£6.74 million). Pretax profit £576,000 (£548,000). Earnings per share 4.66p (4.08p).

● **AGLAN PROPERTY TRUST:** Year to March 31. Dividend 0.1p (0.085p), payable on Nov. 24. Net turnover £9.31 million (£597,476). Pretax profit £463,611 (£72,734). Earnings per share 0.32p (0.16p).

● **THE TIMES VENUE CO:** No interim dividend (same) for the first half of 1986. Turnover (net of VAT) £3.42 million (£3.41 million). Pretax profit £71,815 (£10,938). Adjusted earnings per share 0.38p (0.66p).

● **DAVENPORT KNITWEAR:** Turnover for the half-year to June 30 rose to £3.36 million (£2.74 million). Pretax profit £493,000 (£343,000). Earnings per share 17.67p (11.25p).

● **FREDERICKS PLACE HOLDINGS:** Six months to June 30. Turnover £1.25 million (£932,000). Pretax profit £177,000 (£154,000). Earnings per share 1.94p (1.86p). The results are not strictly comparable because of changes in the composition of the group.

● **IMPERIAL GROUP:** The group is to repay the following loan stocks: the 8 per cent, 1985/90, 6.9 per cent, 2004/09, 7.5 per cent, 2004/09 and the 10.5 per cent, 1990/95. The repayments, involving £118.4 million cash, are necessary to allow a restructuring before the sale of Courage to Elders DCL. Repayments will be at par, apart from the 10.5 per cent, which will be £108 for every £100 nominal.

● **REDLAND:** A joint-venture company, Western-Mobile, is to be formed with Koppers Inc of the US. Redland will pay an estimated \$35 million (£24 million) for a 30 per cent shareholding. W-M will acquire the operations of MPM Inc and Western Paving Construction, which are mainly in the supply of construction aggregates and related services in the US. Arrangements are being made for the joint venture to raise \$60 million of long-term notes at a fixed rate of interest.

● **MACALLAN-GLENLIVET:** Interim payment held at 1p, payable on Nov. 5. Turnover £3.18 million (£2.21 million) for the first half of 1986. Pretax profit £610,000 (£202,000). These results reflect an exceptional volume increase which will not be continued in the second half. But the full-year's results are still expected to show real progress.

● **JE ENGLAND & SONS:** Mosspack (Potatoes), excluding certain operating assets, is to be sold to its management for £27,000 cash, subject to adjustment based on Mosspack's results from June 28 last to the date of completion of the buyout. The disposal will release England of inter-company indebtedness of £658,796. England will then loan Mosspack £300,000, secured on its assets.

● **TENNISCO:** The company is to make an agreed cash offer for Steiger Tractor. Terms: \$3.50 for each share, totalling about \$15.4 million (£10.6 million). Steiger, which filed for protection on June 17 under the US Bankruptcy Code, makes large four-wheel-drive agricultural tractors and tillage equipment.

● **ALLIED PLANT GROUP:** Turnover £7.33 million (£5.3 million) for the six months to June 30. Pretax profit £305,433 (£189,613). Earnings per share 1.10p (0.68p). Trevor Crocker & Partners results will be included under a merger accounting basis in the 1986 annual accounts. Comparisons have not been restated.

● **RAMCO OIL SERVICES:** Six months to June 30 (comparisons adjusted). Pretax loss £607,000 (£101,000). Loss per share 2.9p (0.35p). The board reports that current trading indicates that Ramco will make a loss for the full year. No interim dividend and the board does not expect to pay a final.

● **JULIANA'S HOLDINGS:** Interim payment for the first half of 1986 set at 0.75p (1.25p), payable on Nov. 27. Turnover £3.55 million (£3.93 million). Pretax profit £424,865 (£878,666). Earnings per share 0.84p (2.09p).

● **CONNELLS ESTATE AGENTS:** Six months to June 30. Interim dividend doubled to 2p, partly to reduce the disparity between payments. The board intends to at least maintain the final at 3.2p. Total commissions and fee income £7.26 million (£3.18 million). Pretax profit £2.04 million (£760,000).

● **LAPORTE INDUSTRIES:** The company is entering the Australian building products market through the acquisition of Sydney-based Davco Services for Aus\$4.2 million (£1.82 million), with an additional profit-related payment of Aus\$500,000 at the end of 1987. Davco had sales of Aus\$7.8 million for the year to June 30 last - more than double the figure of three years ago.

● **MCLAUGHLIN & HARVEY:** Six months to June 30. Interim payment 2p (same). Turnover £23.52 million (£28.04 million). Pretax profit £314,000 (£704,000). Earnings per share 4.6p (11.9p). The board is confident that profits for the full year will be sufficient to justify maintaining the level of dividends.

● **BETEC:** Interim dividend 0.65p (0.5p), payable on Nov. 14. Turnover £7.48 million (£7.32 million) for the six months to June 30. Pretax profit £560,000 (£476,000). Earnings per share - weighted average - undiluted, 4.23p (3.63p) and fully diluted, 3.00p (2.53p).

● **HAUTAL HOLDINGS:** Six months to June 10, 1986, compared with the period Jan. 11 to June 30, 1985. Turnover £15.68 million (£11.75 million). Pretax profit £2.04 million (£1.67 million). Earnings per share 1.85p (1.46p). The directors believe that the expanded computer-aided design facilities and the current level of design contracts will make a strong contribution towards profits during the second half.

● **HARVEY & THOMPSON:** Interim dividend raised to 6p (4p) for the year to June 28. Turnover £3.25 million (£1.48 million). Pretax profit £850,000 (£445,000). Earnings per share 15.05p (8.50p). The current year has got off to a strong start. The board expects the half-year result to be "most favourable".

● **AMACLAMATED FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS:** Agreement has been reached for the issue to HDFI Ltd of 6 million new shares at 16.5p cash each, or a total of £990,000. Afterwards, HDFI, an Australian-based investment banking and financial group, will own 23.53 per cent of the enlarged capital.

● **JAMES WILKES:** Interim dividend 3p (same) for the half-year to June 30. Turnover £5.2 million (£1.53 million). Pretax profit £230,663 (£514,835). Earnings per share 3.5p (7.3p). The board explains that this poor performance was entirely because of difficulties encountered by Deritend Engineering (1985).

● **TRAFFORD PARK ESTATES:** Total dividend 12p (11.5p) for the year to June 30. Gross income £6.29 million (£6.13 million). Pretax profit £2.66 million (£2.66 million). Earnings per share 15.26p (16.14p).

## Profit improvement achieved against a background of preparing for growth

"Profits before tax of £10.1m for the first six months to 31 July 1986, compared with £9.7m for the corresponding period last year. Earnings per share have increased by 8.7% to 3.5p from 3.22p last year."

"The growth strategy is based upon developing the Group as a worldwide marketing organisation, built upon excellent service and distribution skills to industrial users and retailers. The Group intends to use its highly developed international network to ensure its marketing organisation draws upon the most cost and quality efficient sources."

"A new management board is being appointed which will comprise Executive Directors of the Group Board, Chief Executives of the major business units and key central staff and will be chaired by Mr. Geoffrey Maddrell."

"No reason why we should not achieve a satisfactory improvement in full year earnings, thus justifying our ongoing commitment to a progressive dividend policy."

*Alan Wrayhaff*  
Chairman

	6 months to 31 July 1986	1985	Year to 31 Jan 1986
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Sales	189,520	191,415	388,040
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	10,123	9,687	27,385
Earnings per share	3-50p	3-22p	9-43p
Dividends per share	1-6p	1-5p	4-0p

The half years' figures are unaudited. The results for the year to 31 January 1986 are an abridged version of the full accounts which received an unqualified report by the auditors and have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

## INTERIM RESULTS



If you would like to know more about us write to the Secretary for a copy of our current Report & Accounts.  
Totoal Group plc,  
Totoal House, 19/21 Spring Gardens,  
Manchester M60 2TL.

**Totoal Group**

Our names add up to strength

# MC GROWTH

A growing name in growing markets

**MC** McCORQUODALE PLC



[illegible]

# CRUDE OIL TRUSTS

Price	Change	%	P/E	1988 High/Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
8.54	0.2	2.4		85	Smaller Cos.	78		8.0	8.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		108	81 The Atlantic	80		8.1	8.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		213	82 Gulf Oil	81		8.2	8.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		213	83 Ind. & C.	80		8.3	8.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	84 Gulf Western	81		8.4	8.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	85 North American	80		8.5	8.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	86 Penn. East	80		8.6	8.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	87 North American	80		8.7	9.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	88 Penn. East	80		8.8	9.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	89 Penn. East	80		8.9	9.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	90 Penn. East	80		9.0	9.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	91 Penn. East	80		9.1	9.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	92 Penn. East	80		9.2	9.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	93 Penn. East	80		9.3	9.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	94 Penn. East	80		9.4	9.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	95 Penn. East	80		9.5	9.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	96 Penn. East	80		9.6	9.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	97 Penn. East	80		9.7	10.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	98 Penn. East	80		9.8	10.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	99 Penn. East	80		9.9	10.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	100 Penn. East	80		10.0	10.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	101 Penn. East	80		10.1	10.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	102 Penn. East	80		10.2	10.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	103 Penn. East	80		10.3	10.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	104 Penn. East	80		10.4	10.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	105 Penn. East	80		10.5	10.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	106 Penn. East	80		10.6	10.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	107 Penn. East	80		10.7	11.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	108 Penn. East	80		10.8	11.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	109 Penn. East	80		10.9	11.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	110 Penn. East	80		11.0	11.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	111 Penn. East	80		11.1	11.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	112 Penn. East	80		11.2	11.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	113 Penn. East	80		11.3	11.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	114 Penn. East	80		11.4	11.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	115 Penn. East	80		11.5	11.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	116 Penn. East	80		11.6	11.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	117 Penn. East	80		11.7	12.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	118 Penn. East	80		11.8	12.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	119 Penn. East	80		11.9	12.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	120 Penn. East	80		12.0	12.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	121 Penn. East	80		12.1	12.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	122 Penn. East	80		12.2	12.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	123 Penn. East	80		12.3	12.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	124 Penn. East	80		12.4	12.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	125 Penn. East	80		12.5	12.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	126 Penn. East	80		12.6	12.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	127 Penn. East	80		12.7	13.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	128 Penn. East	80		12.8	13.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	129 Penn. East	80		12.9	13.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	130 Penn. East	80		13.0	13.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	131 Penn. East	80		13.1	13.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	132 Penn. East	80		13.2	13.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	133 Penn. East	80		13.3	13.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	134 Penn. East	80		13.4	13.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	135 Penn. East	80		13.5	13.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	136 Penn. East	80		13.6	13.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	137 Penn. East	80		13.7	14.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	138 Penn. East	80		13.8	14.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	139 Penn. East	80		13.9	14.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	140 Penn. East	80		14.0	14.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	141 Penn. East	80		14.1	14.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	142 Penn. East	80		14.2	14.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	143 Penn. East	80		14.3	14.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	144 Penn. East	80		14.4	14.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	145 Penn. East	80		14.5	14.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	146 Penn. East	80		14.6	14.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	147 Penn. East	80		14.7	15.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	148 Penn. East	80		14.8	15.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	149 Penn. East	80		14.9	15.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	150 Penn. East	80		15.0	15.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	151 Penn. East	80		15.1	15.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	152 Penn. East	80		15.2	15.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	153 Penn. East	80		15.3	15.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	154 Penn. East	80		15.4	15.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	155 Penn. East	80		15.5	15.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	156 Penn. East	80		15.6	15.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	157 Penn. East	80		15.7	16.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	158 Penn. East	80		15.8	16.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	159 Penn. East	80		15.9	16.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	160 Penn. East	80		16.0	16.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	161 Penn. East	80		16.1	16.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	162 Penn. East	80		16.2	16.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	163 Penn. East	80		16.3	16.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	164 Penn. East	80		16.4	16.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	165 Penn. East	80		16.5	16.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	166 Penn. East	80		16.6	16.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	167 Penn. East	80		16.7	17.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	168 Penn. East	80		16.8	17.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	169 Penn. East	80		16.9	17.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	170 Penn. East	80		17.0	17.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	171 Penn. East	80		17.1	17.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	172 Penn. East	80		17.2	17.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	173 Penn. East	80		17.3	17.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	174 Penn. East	80		17.4	17.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	175 Penn. East	80		17.5	17.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	176 Penn. East	80		17.6	17.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	177 Penn. East	80		17.7	18.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	178 Penn. East	80		17.8	18.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	179 Penn. East	80		17.9	18.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	180 Penn. East	80		18.0	18.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	181 Penn. East	80		18.1	18.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	182 Penn. East	80		18.2	18.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	183 Penn. East	80		18.3	18.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	184 Penn. East	80		18.4	18.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	185 Penn. East	80		18.5	18.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	186 Penn. East	80		18.6	18.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	187 Penn. East	80		18.7	19.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	188 Penn. East	80		18.8	19.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	189 Penn. East	80		18.9	19.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	190 Penn. East	80		19.0	19.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	191 Penn. East	80		19.1	19.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	192 Penn. East	80		19.2	19.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	193 Penn. East	80		19.3	19.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	194 Penn. East	80		19.4	19.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	195 Penn. East	80		19.5	19.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	196 Penn. East	80		19.6	19.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	197 Penn. East	80		19.7	20.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	198 Penn. East	80		19.8	20.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	199 Penn. East	80		19.9	20.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	200 Penn. East	80		20.0	20.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	201 Penn. East	80		20.1	20.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	202 Penn. East	80		20.2	20.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	203 Penn. East	80		20.3	20.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	204 Penn. East	80		20.4	20.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	205 Penn. East	80		20.5	20.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	206 Penn. East	80		20.6	20.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	207 Penn. East	80		20.7	21.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	208 Penn. East	80		20.8	21.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	209 Penn. East	80		20.9	21.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	210 Penn. East	80		21.0	21.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	211 Penn. East	80		21.1	21.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	212 Penn. East	80		21.2	21.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	213 Penn. East	80		21.3	21.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	214 Penn. East	80		21.4	21.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	215 Penn. East	80		21.5	21.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	216 Penn. East	80		21.6	21.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	217 Penn. East	80		21.7	22.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	218 Penn. East	80		21.8	22.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	219 Penn. East	80		21.9	22.2
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	220 Penn. East	80		22.0	22.3
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	221 Penn. East	80		22.1	22.4
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	222 Penn. East	80		22.2	22.5
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	223 Penn. East	80		22.3	22.6
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	224 Penn. East	80		22.4	22.7
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	225 Penn. East	80		22.5	22.8
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	226 Penn. East	80		22.6	22.9
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	227 Penn. East	80		22.7	23.0
8.5	0.3	3.5		101	228 Penn. East	80		22.8	23.1
8.6	0.4	5.4		101	229 Penn. East	80		22.9	23.2

1



# Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Indicorp	Overseas Trade	10.00
2	Low & Boser	Chemicals L-R	10.00
3	Ellis & Evers	Chemicals L-R	10.00
4	Aus Oil & Gas	Oil	10.00
5	Bentley	Paper/Print/Adv	10.00
6	Dowling & Mills	Electricals	10.00
7	Amersham	Chemicals/Pha	10.00
8	Carroll Bros	Chemicals/Pha	10.00
9	Orion	Newspapers/Pha	10.00
10	Reilly & Usher	Leisure	10.00
11	Guinness	Banks/Discom	10.00
12	Bowthorpe	Electricals	10.00
13	Cambridge Elec	Electricals	10.00
14	Ulster TV	Chemicals/Pha	10.00
15	Country & New	Property	10.00
16	Brent Chem	Chemicals/Pha	10.00
17	Micro BS	Electricals	10.00
18	Parrell Elect	Electricals	10.00
19	Byron	Electricals	10.00
20	Banking	Industrials L-R	10.00
21	Tunstall	Electricals	10.00
22	Lon Park Heads	Hotels/Caterers	10.00
23	NIV	Chemicals/Pha	10.00
24	Pennell	Oil	10.00
25	Nat Aust Bk	Banks/Discom	10.00
26	Brownie	Building/Roads	10.00
27	Aus New Z	Banks/Discom	10.00
28	Campani	Leisure	10.00
29	Bosley & Hawkes	Leisure	10.00
30	Sagbridge Brick	Building/Roads	10.00
31	LWT Hides	Chemicals/Pha	10.00
32	Gramco	Chemicals/Pha	10.00
33	Macro 4	Electricals	10.00
34	Glen Glover	Food	10.00
35	Logica	Electricals	10.00
36	Holstead (James)	Chemicals/Pha	10.00
37	HAT	Building/Roads	10.00
38	Linton	Property	10.00
39	Scot TV	Chemicals/Pha	10.00
40	Lillehall	Industrials L-R	10.00
41	Aurewoods	Building/Roads	10.00
42	Allied Colloids	Chemicals/Pha	10.00
43	Thames TV	Chemicals/Pha	10.00
44	Hickson	Chemicals/Pha	10.00

Please be sure to take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend  
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £16.00 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

## BRITISH FUNDS

High Low	Share Price	Dividend	Yield

## SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield

## FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield

## OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield

## UNDATED

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield

## INDEX-LINKED

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield

## BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Equities in retreat

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 15. Dealings end today. Contango day Monday. Settlement day October 6. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## BUILDINGS AND ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## CINEMAS AND TV

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## DRAPERY AND STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## ELECTRICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## FINANCE AND LAND

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## FOODS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## HOTELS AND CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## INDUSTRIALS A-D

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## INDUSTRIALS E-H

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## INDUSTRIALS I-L

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## INDUSTRIALS M-P

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## LEISURE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## MINING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## ON

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## OVERSEAS TRADERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## SHIPPING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## SHOES AND LEATHER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## TEXTILES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## TOBACCOS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

# Portfolio Gold

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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

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High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## PROPERTY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## SHIPPING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## SHOES AND LEATHER

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## TEXTILES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

## TOBACCOS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE

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# Basically Better to take full advantage of lenient handicap mark

By Mandarini

Basically Better, who has improved out of all recognition since being fitted with a visor, has an outstanding chance at the weights in the £15,000 Taylor Woodrow Construction Golden Jubilee Charity Handicap at Ascot today.

When a filly strikes form at this stage of the season, there is no knowing how far she will progress and the form book suggests that Basically Better has improved in the region of 20lb since the weights for today's race were published.

Peter Walwyn's filly looked a useful performer in the making when second to Sue Grundy on her debut at Salisbury a year ago and the Lambourn trainer held her in sufficiently high regard to run her next in the Rockefellers where she finished a respectable seventh to Trafalgar.

After failing to show her true ability on her first runs this season, Basically Better was fitted with a visor for the first time at Warwick on August Bank Holiday Monday and opened her account with a five-length victory in a field of 23 maidens.

The Derrilyn filly was again visored and again partnered by Nick Carlisle when beating Fluttry in a minor conditions race at Ayr a week ago and it is that victory which pinpoints her chance today.

On her previous run, Fluttry had finished a close third to Entrancing in the Strenuous Stakes at York and it is through that filly makes Basically Better a marginally better horse than Entrancing at level weights. As my selec-

tion is set to receive 19lb from John Dunlop's filly this afternoon, she has an undeniable chance.

So, with the Walwyn stable in form, Carlisle again in the saddle and the visor to be fitted once more, Basically Better looks a worthy nap to land this valuable handicap.

Restone, also a winner at Ayr's Western meeting, has been the winner of the William Hill Handicap.

Genf Lewis's lightly-raced Habitot was gaining his first success at the Scottish track but had previously run

winning debut at Doncaster earlier this month and can underline his classic potential by beating Sharp Victor and Arras in the EBF Mornington Stakes.

So impressive was Michael Stoute's Northern Dancer colt that day, that he created more of a stir in the ante-post market for the 2,000 Guineas than Don't Forget Me, the winner of the Laurent Perrier Champagne Stakes, on the same card.

Stoute saddles two well-bred newcomers, Miss Storm Bird and Shamara, in the EBF Kensington Palace Stakes but I prefer to rely on the twice-raced Chaudenay, who had four previous winners behind her when a close fifth to Laluche in the group three May Hill Stakes at Doncaster.

Black Sophie regained the winning thread when tried over 10 furlongs for the first time at Newbury a week ago and can follow up in the Terry Ramsden Handicap.

Darham Place can gain his first victory for 28 months in the Parson and Crosland Stakes at Redcar. Kim Brassey's four-year-old has been given little respect by the handicapper since finishing second at Royal Ascot as a juvenile but he has been running quite well under crushing weights for the last two seasons.

Tom Jones, who has a good record at the Yorkshire track, can land a two-year-old double with Inishabine in that contest and will certainly not be inconvenienced by today's return to the minimum trip.

Ajdaal lived up to all expectations when making a well in several competitive handicaps and was certainly not winning out of turn.

That Ayr race was over six furlongs but Restone was clear at the furlong marker in that contest and will certainly not be inconvenienced by today's return to the minimum trip.

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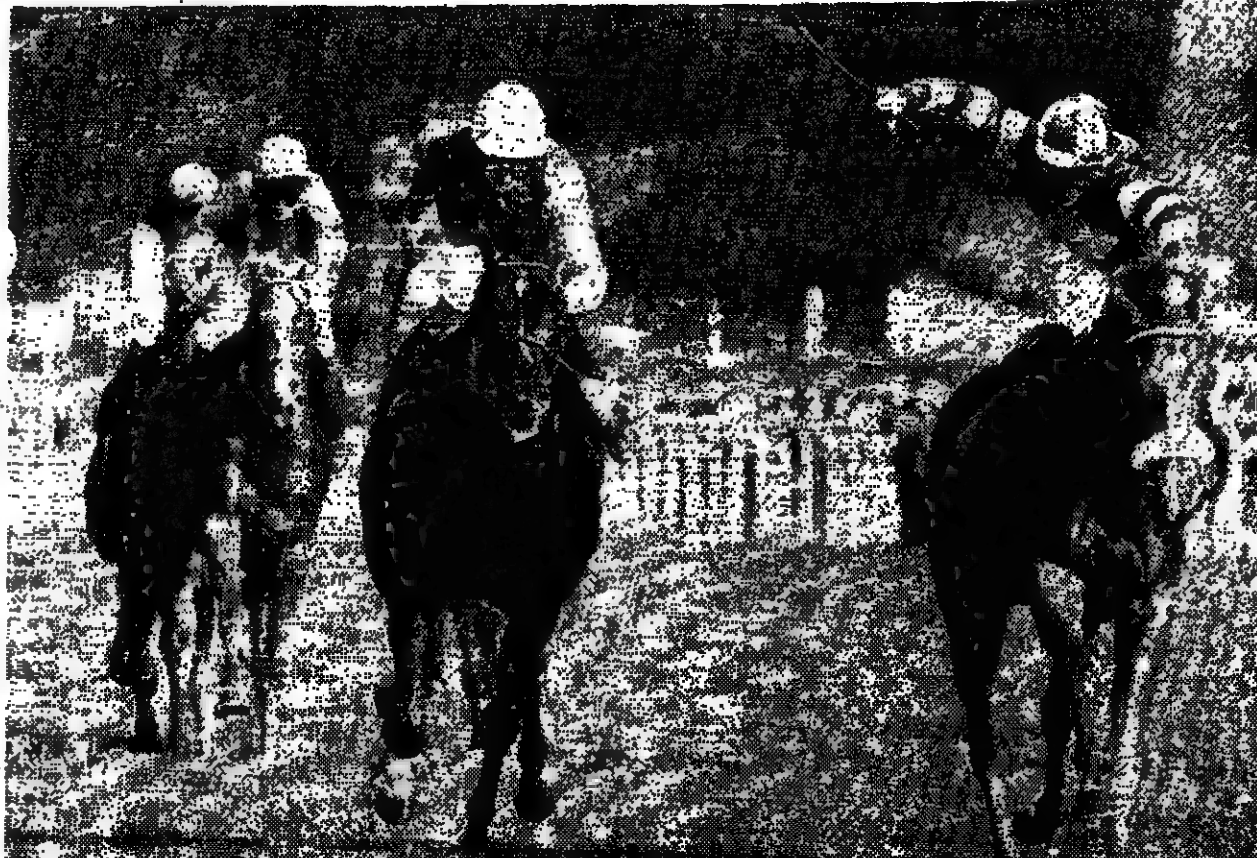
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Invited Guest (right) masters Mountain Memory in the Hoover Mile at Ascot yesterday (Photograph: High Routledge)

## Invited Guest shows perfect timing

Invited Guest is the new 8-1 favourite for the 1,000 Guineas with Ladbrokes after extending her unbeaten run to four in the Hoover Mile at Ascot yesterday. Corals make the Robert Armstrong-trained filly 1-4-1 for both 1987 fillies' classics.

An impressive winner when partnered by Steve Cauthen at Goodwood, Invited Guest again came with a well-timed run yesterday, getting up inside the final furlong to beat Mountain Memory by three-quarters of a length with Shining Water third. Mountain Memory had taken the lead at the furlong marker after Shining Water had tried to make all the running.

Armstrong said: "I certainly see her as a classic filly. I asked Cauthen to give her as easy a ride as possible today and, although he rather overdid it, I was never worried from a furlong and a half out."

"Depending on the ground in France, she may have a final run on Arc day or wait for the Grand Critérium at Longchamp the following weekend. However, if it's very soft in France I won't run her again this season."

The day's other group prize, the Cambridge Lodge Stakes, was won, almost inevitably, by Michael Stoute, who sent out Kazarnov to beat Highland Chieftain and Bakharoff.

Kazarnov was a most impressive winner. Having only his second race of the season, the Aga Khan's colt quickened clear, entering the straight and Bakharoff was never able to mount a challenge. Close home the disappointing odds-on favourite was forced second place to Highland Chieftain.

Stoute had earlier initiated a double when he introduced the \$2.6 million colt, Zaijal, to make an impressive winning debut in the Clarence House Maiden Stakes.

Zaijal led 1½ furlongs from home and went on to beat Rose Reef by two lengths, earning a 20-1 quote for the 2,000 Guineas and a 25-1 offer for the Derby.

Immediate plans for the Seattle Slew colt are not clear but Pat Stoute, the trainer's wife, said: "Zaijal did everything he should have done today and always has done at home, too."

Rose Reef, also making his debut and also beautifully bred, delighted his trainer, Ian Balding, who said: "He's got speed and will probably run at the next meeting here in the Hyperion Stakes when his owner-breeder, Paul Mellon, will be over to see him run."

Fair Country, beaten in a novice hurdle at Plumpton all month, was a surprise winner of the Swinley Forest Handicap for David Elsworth.

Elsworth said: "I can't be sure we will get in the Cambridge Stakes so that's why we went for this race in the meantime. If we do run at Newmarket, I've closed Gary Carter to ride again."

Steve Cauthen tried to make all the running on the 1985 Royal Hunt Cup winner, Come On The Blues, but they were passed a furlong out by Ready Wit. However, Carter immediately challenged on the outside with David Elsworth's filly and they fought clear.

Fair Country, having already picked up a penalty for the Cambridge Stakes by winning at Doncaster, does not incur any more weight for this victory and remains on 8-2b for the Newmarket race.

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## Li's target of six gold medals foiled

Seoul (Reuter) — China's ambitious gymnast Li Ning fell from gold in a dramatic ending to the Asian Games competition here yesterday. Only 24 hours after talking about collecting six gold medals, Li was outclassed in three of his five events by Yum Yum and a compatriot, and by the South Korean, Kwoun Soon Seong.

Yang beat Li into second place on the horizontal bars and pommel-horse while in the parallel bars Li finished a distant sixth as Kwoun and a South Korean team won the top Jong.

The sixth men's individual event — the vault — was won by another Chinese, Lau Yun.

But the perfectly proportioned Li made no mistake in the floor exercises and the rings, where he is the reigning Olympic and world champion. It brought his collection of gold medals here to four.

In swimming, China finally cracked Japan's dominance, capturing four more golds including the 4 x 100 metres freestyle relay in which the top Japanese, Katsunori Fujiwara — the first athlete to win three golds at the games — failed to make up the two-second lead needed for victory in the final leg.

Thirty miles away on the edge of the sprawling South Korean capital, a 16-year-old Filipino, Ramon Barbo, won the chess championship after a sudden-death playoff with the 46-year-old Kim Ki Bub, of South Korea.

Trainer moves on

Cologne (Reuter) — The struggling West German first division club, Cologne, parted company with their trainer, Georg Kessler, after only seven months. The club, 16th in the 18-team league with just three points from seven games, said after a crisis meeting this week that the decision had been taken by mutual agreement.

Kessler, aged 53, a former trainer of the Dutch national side and of top Belgian clubs, Anderlecht and Bruges, joined Cologne in February and helped them avoid relegation while reaching the final of the UEFA Cup.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.15 Inishrah, 2.45 Market Man, 3.15 Durham Place, 3.45 Eusigne, 4.15 Lightham, 4.45 Yabeb, 5.15 Jarrovin.

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## ASCOT

Going: good to firm. Draw: no significant advantage

2.30 TERRY RAMSDEN HANDICAP STAKES (3-Y-O: £8,012: 1m 2f) (10 runners)

104 14123 NIGHT OUT PERHAPS (M) 3y 3m 9-7. P. Teddley 1  
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FORM POLYTRAKTS, 4th 3rd to Green Double at Haydock (8-9), previously (8-9) was beaten 2½ to 1 by Donnell Schwartz, also in a Group race, at Goodwood (St. 17,252), good to firm, July 14, 1986. WOODFOLD (11-1) was running well above her normal level in a 10-runner handicap at Newbury (11-1) on Wednesday (St. 17,252), good to firm, July 14, 1986. WOODFOLD (11-1) was running well above her normal level in a 10-runner handicap at Newbury (11-1) on Wednesday (St. 17,252), good to firm, July 14, 1986.

3.5 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP STAKES (2,142: 5f) (11)

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3.40 TAYLOR WOODROW CONSTRUCTION GOLDEN JUBILEE CHARITY HANDICAP STAKES (3-Y-O FILLIES: £11,569: 1m) (10)

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104 14123 NIGHT OUT PERHAPS (M) 3y 3m 9







## FOOTBALL

# Italian decision to lift import ban sparks fears of a mass exodus

By Peter Ball

The Italian Football Association's decision to lift the ban on the import of new overseas players, which paves the way for Ian Rush to join Juventus next season, was greeted with trepidation in English football yesterday. Although the restriction on Italian clubs employing more than two foreign players makes a wholesale exodus unlikely immediately, the loss of only two or three top names following last summer's departure of Lineker and Hughes would be a further blow to the English game's dwindling appeal.

That threat will be exacerbated if EEC pressure on the Italian FA to fall into line with the Common Market regulations persuades the clubs to increase the number of overseas players permitted. "That was mentioned as a possibility at Wednesday's meeting and the number could be raised to three at the club's meeting next March or April," an Italian FA spokesman said yesterday.

With leading Italian clubs, AC Milan and Juventus, who are known to favour raising the limit to five imports, pressing for further relaxation, that must be a distinct possibility encouraging the fear that English domestic football could become a backwater. As the transfers of Lineker, Hughes and Rush demonstrate, even the most powerful English clubs find themselves unable to hang on to their greatest assets because they cannot match the wages on offer in Italy and Spain. Freedom of contract, climbing gates and the European ban has combined to leave English football an easy prey.

We have a frightening prospect, I don't think there will be a tremendous drain but, if only three or four players go, it will be our best players again," said Liverpool chief executive, Peter Robinson. "That not only damages the national team, but it has a knock-on effect on club football, because if you take the top players out the product is poorer. It is always the for-

wards who go, and they are the people who excite the crowds."

Howard Kendall, of Everton, was more sanguine, although he agreed that it is impossible for English clubs to compete with Barcelona and Juventus. "They are just in a different league, but it is not a new problem. Greaves, Law and John Charles all went. The Rushes and Linekers came along to take over from them, and they will be replaced in their turn."

The situation, however, is different and potentially more damaging nowadays. Both Robinson and Martin Edwards, the chairman of Manchester United, say that their clubs are strong enough to withstand the attractions of the large transfer fees. The number of clubs in that happy position is small.

The prospects are deeply worrying, and Robinson fears that, if the European ban is not lifted soon, English clubs might not be able to match German, Dutch or Belgian wages, either.

## Defender escapes with a fine

Southampton defender, Mark Dennis, who has one of the worst disciplinary records in football, escaped suspension when he was found guilty yesterday of ungentlemanly and improper behaviour by the Football Association. Dennis was fined £250, severely censured, warned as to his future conduct and ordered to pay £200 costs.

The FA disciplinary committee, who heard Dennis's case, was remarkably lenient considering his record. The Southampton full back, aged 24, who has been sent off eight times in his professional career, was reported by referee, Kevin Ball, following his involvement in the Southampton's 4-3 defeat at Norwich on August 30. Dennis was alleged to have hit Norwich's Ian Crook during a scuffle as the teams left the pitch at the end of the match.

Peter Hart, captain of the third division club, Walsall, has salmonella poisoning, the club revealed yesterday, following several days' illness. Tests by the Environmental Health Department confirmed the infection. Walsall's players resumed training on Monday after five days because of what appeared to be a mystery virus. The problem appears to stem from September 12 when the team stayed overnight at Carlisle before a third division match. Hart and goalkeeper, Mark Prudhoe, who have similar symptoms, are doubtful for Saturday's game at Colchester, but the club intend to fulfil the fixture.

## Bailey faces a long fight for fitness

Gary Bailey, the Manchester United and England goalkeeper, who has been sidelined for seven months with a knee injury, saw a specialist on Wednesday and got the go-ahead to start weight training. But it will be months, rather than weeks, before he will be ready for competitive football. Bailey said: "The specialist said the knee had stabilized and I should start weight training. Initially, I had problems with my cartilage and I had some reaction when I was with the England squad in Mexico."

"Something went wrong and I had a second operation 10 weeks ago. It is looking more like three months than weeks before I will be match-fit. But this time I do not intend to rush things. I want to be fully fit before I attempt a comeback."

Nottingham Forest, the first division leaders, may recall Chris Fairclough, their England Under-21 central defender, for the match against Arsenal at the City Ground, tomorrow. Fairclough has been out for 17 months with a series of injuries but, when he returns, he will be in the place of Des Walker who has fitness problems.

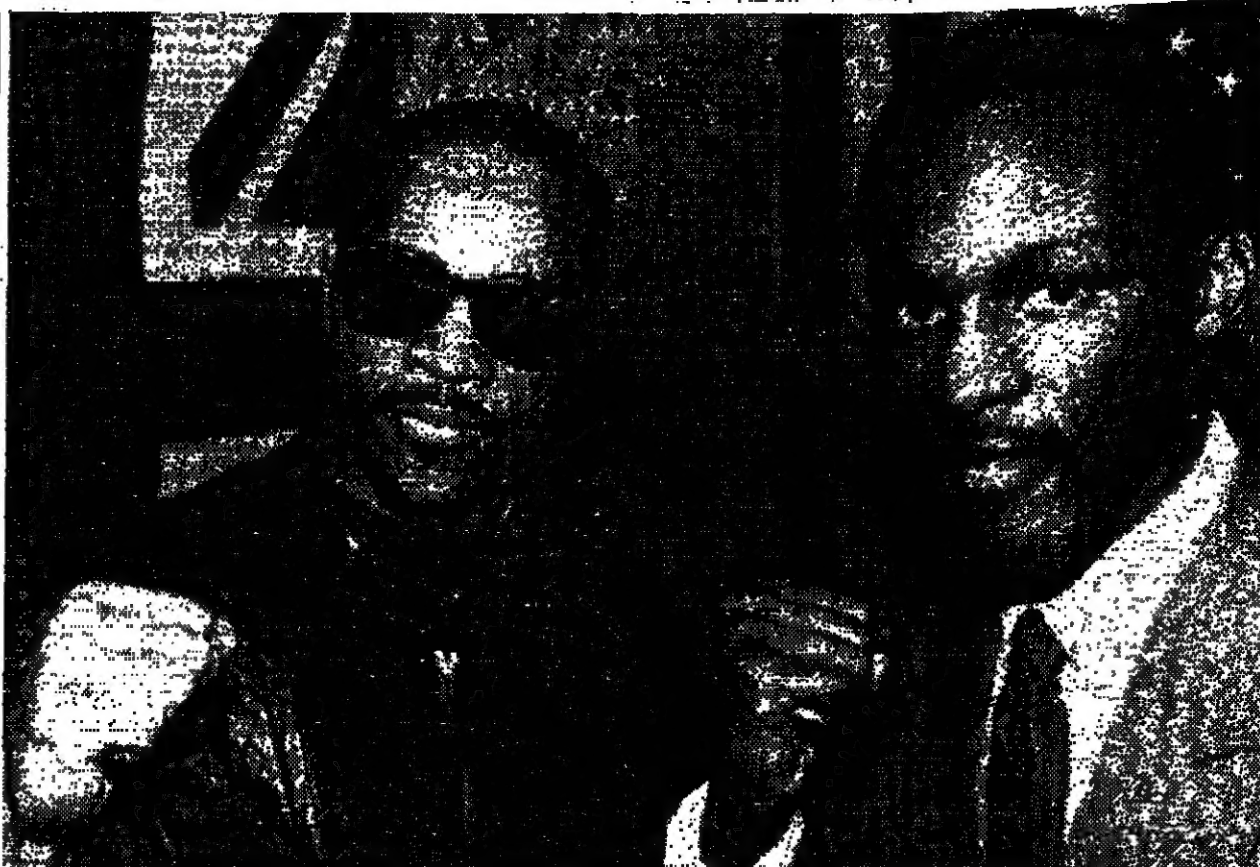
Billy McNeill, who has been blocked by Aston Villa manager, has blocked any immediate danger of Steve Hodge departing from the first division's bottom club. McNeill said Hodge is in action for the first time against Reading in the Isthmian Cup on Wednesday and afterwards he was in no doubt that he wanted

the England World Cup player to stay at Villa Park. "I can persuade him to remain here," McNeill said. "In any event, nobody is leaving until I have had the chance to assess the staff at Wolverhampton Wanderers. They have offered me a £5,000 wage increase because they withdrew from the Central League this season without giving due notice. This is a good deal of money for a club like ours."

The alleged offence is that Wolves failed to inform the Central League by April 1 of their intention to withdraw and thus did not fulfil their fixtures. "No-one knew last April whether or not we would still be in existence," Mr Pearson added.

Birmingham City have terminated the contract of Nicky Plattenauer, a midfielder player, by mutual consent. Plattenauer, a £50,000 signing from Coventry City nearly two years ago, lost his first-team place last season when he went on loan to Reading and he recently rejected a move to Cardiff City, who are now likely to renew their interest.

Jeremy Charles, Oxford United's Welsh international forward who was carried off with a knee injury in the 6-0 win over Gillingham in the Littlewoods Cup, is to have an exploratory operation on Wednesday and afterwards he was in no doubt that he wanted



Donald Curry (above left) with 20 knockouts in 25 amateur contests, is one of boxing's most destructive punchers, but he holds no fears for Lloyd Honeyghan, who challenges the American for his undisputed world welterweight title in Atlantic City tomorrow. The Briton, unbeaten in 27 bouts,

became the top contender when he stopped Horace Shufford, of the United States. Confident of his chances against the toughest opponent he will ever have met, Honeyghan said: "I don't feel any extra pressure going up against Curry. He is just another man. I'm walking out of here with his title. There is little

doubt Honeyghan will have to excel if he is not to become the eighth unsuccessful challenger for the American title. Yet Mickey Duff, Honeyghan's manager, believes there are weaknesses his man will be able to exploit - Curry's relative inactivity and problems in making the weight limit.

## RUGBY UNION: WEBBE HAS THE QUALITY TO RECAPTURE PAST GLORIES

# Bridgend should pin hopes on a wing, not a prayer

By Gerald Davies

Bridgend may well offer up a prayer for the return of the success they enjoyed so regularly a few years ago - they were Welsh Cup finalists for four consecutive years between 1979 and 1983 - but if they incline their attitude to the wing, they may find a more practical and exciting means of achieving it.

It is only a shift of emphasis they require. On Wednesday night, in a match during which Llanelly played very much against their nature and tried to contain the opposition forward while Bridgend were only beginning to find their feet with a new combination of players, the game was stuttering, forgetfully to a close. The home team had kicked three penalties, the visitors one. Yet, before the end, Owen Webb, the Bridgend wing, had transformed this prosaic scoreline by getting two tries himself and making another to send the spectators home with a warm glow.

Bridgend's pack may well have been good, but they argue that they had formed the platform. But they will be better forwards, and Bridgend a better team, for understanding that what Webb did was all his own. The evening's enduring memory will be of him.

He had, as in the modern way of these things, languished on the wing for an hour or more, only ever likely to receive the ball by accident or, marginally better, opportunity. Rarely had he been motivated by a genuine desire to give him the ball. Such ambition would appear to be too daring by far with a wing all too often seen, more so than the full back, as the last line of defence and, more sadly, as the last line of attack too.



Webb talented

## Wrexham have a boot on the other foot

Some rugby clubs like Blackheath of Liverpool are born great, and some like Wrexham are made great. Wrexham might well prove to be such a club. Geography is their greatest ally.

Wales, they could, theoretically, draw on Shropshire, most of Cheshire as well as north and mid-Wales. There is no senior club in the north, and Wrexham, Liverpool or mid-Lancashire and there seems to be no doubt that Wrexham could and should regard to senior status as Orrell did in the 60s.

One problem is that Wrexham is a Welsh club and the cauldron of Welsh rugby boils away merrily in the south. Could they attach themselves to the Welsh Rugby Union? Would they be accepted as a Welsh club? Would they be accepted as a Welsh club?

John Rogers, the manager of Wrexham, has resigned after last week's defeat against Barrow, the club's fifth reverse in six matches. Terry Murphy, who resigned as manager of Wrexham's local rivals Northwich Victoria earlier this year, has been put in temporary charge.

33: won 30: lost 3. Points for 1,063: Points against 261. Two of the three games lost are of special significance. One was to Newport (29-0) in the third round of the Welsh Cup, and the final defeat was wholly honourable when they lost to Llanelly (26-10) in the final game of the season. "Tidy" was a one-off fixture. It was the first time that the club had progressed to the third round of the Welsh Cup. The defeat by Llanelly was the first home game that Wrexham had lost since September 1984.

With regard to Wrexham's style of play, they are a good deal nearer in method to Pontypool than to Llanelli. A solid forward platform is usually achieved and the backs only tend to come into their own in the game's last quarter when fitness, a quality endlessly stressed by the club coaches, has become the opposition's defence. A switch around of coaches with Austin Thomas, taking over as north Wales coach, when Tony Gray, who had a respectable side last season but have since lost several key players, met Rhydian on Wednesday and could not cope with the visitors' superior physical strength and were defeated 24-12.

Rydian controlled the early exchanges but it was Rhydian who scored through a powerful breakdown by their speedy wing, Shula. Awarap, the game's outstanding player, John Ed-

## Freeman's tries steer Reigate to victory

Schools Rugby by Michael Stevenson

Reigate Grammar School's game at home to Whitgift produced an excellent contest, narrowly won 16-13 by the home side. They led 10-0 at the interval and survived a storming finish by Whitgift, to win by a goal, a try and two penalties to a try and three penalties.

The Whitgift pack was dominant in the early stages but a superb performance from the Reigate flanker, Adam Freeman, who scored both his side's tries, accounted for the solid half-time lead. Mark Holman kicked one conversion.

The second half both teams kicked a pair of penalties, by Holman for Reigate and Nick Auer for Whitgift. Auer added a third penalty and towards the end, the command of the Whitgift pack was rewarded with a pushover try, touched down by their scrum-half, Matt Corbett.

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wards, the right wing, scored soon after for Rhydian but Rydal, whose tackling began to show signs of wear and tear, pulled back through a try by Jason Shaw. Osian Jones, who had helped to make the try with a goal, a try and two penalties to a try and three penalties.

Two tries by the powerful and enterprising Edwards effectively sealed the issue, as both were converted by David Simpkins.

## New captain for Surrey

Michael Gibson, now in his second season with London Irish, will captain Surrey this season (Devon & Exeter). The county selectors have chosen a squad of 28 from which the team to play a warm-up game against British Police at Imber Court on October 8 will be chosen.

Alistair McHugh will continue as coach but the squad will be without the services of Simon Smith, the Richmond stand-off half who is a member of the England squad and wishes to limit his appearances this season. A likely replacement for Smith will be Mark Jermyn (Rosslyn Park) who is a member of the squad.

## ICE SKATING

## Manley in another league to Conway

By John Hennessy

Elizabeth Manley, of Canada, produced a bravura free skating performance to win the St Ivel Ice International women's title by a length of the nearby Thames at Richmond on Wednesday night. The seven judges unanimously placed her first, with six glowing marks for 5.9 and eight of 5.8.

Joanne Cooper, the young British champion, still only 15, had another unhappy evening and declined two further places to fifth having been overtaken by the competitors from East Germany and the Soviet Union. Jill Trenary, of the United States, was runner-up.

Manley, skating last, lifted the evening's drawing on to a higher plane altogether with a performance as near flawless as you can get on such a treacherous surface as ice.

She executed four different triple jumps, the saltchow workday toe loop and saltchow being supplemented by the more demanding lutz and loop. She was fifth in the world championship last season. Promotion is imminent.

Miss Conway began well enough with an assured triple saltchow, the jump that had eluded her, crucially, in Tuesday's short programme. But both triple toe loops betrayed her and she fell, too, on a double axel.

There was some consolation for Briton in the display of Sharon Jones and Paul Ashkan in the original set pattern dance. They harnessed the Viennese Waltz beat to a sequence full of flow and character, and they were beaten only marginally into second place by the favourites, Kathrin and Christoff Beck. The judges split 5-4 in favour of the Austrian couple, who were seventh in the world last season, six places ahead of Ashkan and Jones.

RESULTS: Women: free skating: 1. Manley (Can), 1.0pt 2. Trenary (US), 2.8 3. Cooper (GB), 3.1 4. Jones (GB), 3.2 5. Conway (GB), 3.3 6. Beck (Aust), 3.4 7. Ashkan (GB), 3.5 8. Jones (GB), 3.6 9. Ashkan (GB), 3.7 10. Jones (GB), 3.8 11. Jones (GB), 3.9 12. Jones (GB), 4.0 13. Jones (GB), 4.1 14. Jones (GB), 4.2 15. Jones (GB), 4.3 16. Jones (GB), 4.4 17. Jones (GB), 4.5 18. Jones (GB), 4.6 19. Jones (GB), 4.7 20. Jones (GB), 4.8 21. Jones (GB), 4.9 22. Jones (GB), 5.0 23. Jones (GB), 5.1 24. Jones (GB), 5.2 25. Jones (GB), 5.3 26. Jones (GB), 5.4 27. Jones (GB), 5.5 28. Jones (GB), 5.6 29. Jones (GB), 5.7 30. Jones (GB), 5.8 31. Jones (GB), 5.9 32. Jones (GB), 6.0 33. Jones (GB), 6.1 34. Jones (GB), 6.2 35. Jones (GB), 6.3 36. Jones (GB), 6.4 37. Jones (GB), 6.5 38. Jones (GB), 6.6 39. Jones (GB), 6.7 40. Jones (GB), 6.8 41. Jones (GB), 6.9 42. Jones (GB), 7.0 43. Jones (GB), 7.1 44. Jones (GB), 7.2 45. Jones (GB), 7.3 46. Jones (GB), 7.4 47. Jones (GB), 7.5 48. Jones (GB), 7.6 49. 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## SPORT



Every picture tells a story: Sumarno, of Indonesia, suffers as a putt refuses to drop in his match with Sam Torrance, but soon comes to terms with the idea (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

## Luton can earn draw or replay

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Luton Town and the Football League's management committee meet today for the first time, on the instructions of Dick Tracey, the Minister for Sport.

Luton were technically knocked out of the Littlewoods Cup on Monday when the management committee ruled that their refusal to admit Cardiff City supporters was contrary to the rules of the competition. Although the two sides have been communicating with each other for 10 months, the meeting at League headquarters in Lytham St Anne's today will be their first.

The meeting was arranged yesterday on the firm advice of Mr Tracey. Acting as a referee on behalf of the Government, he intervened in the dispute between the club that has taken an imaginative stand against hooliganism by banning away supporters and the committee which feels that the rules have been breached. It promises to be an uncompromising contest, which could yet end in a draw and go to a replay in the High Court. Luton, who will be represented by David Evans, their chairman, and John Smith, their executive director, made it clear yesterday that they will not yield on their principles.

"We will not change our membership card system," Evans said. "We have taken the first fragile step towards identifying the bullies and the hooligans. We have got rid of

ours. When other clubs have done the same their supporters will be made welcome here, but not until then.

"Public opinion seems to be with us. They think that perhaps this is the way to get rid of hooliganism, and if we lose this battle how are we ever going to win it? If we are right then football will have won. If we are wrong nobody will have lost anything."

Even though the committee is known to be equally intransigent, it is more likely to be forced to concede defeat. If Luton do not triumph and are not reinstated, they will follow the customary pattern of procedure and appeal to the Football Association. If necessary, they will then take legal action.

Evans stated that he will take no new offers with him

into the meeting. He is not even prepared to give up home advantage and hold the first leg of the second round tie against Cardiff City on a neutral ground such as Watford's Vicarage Road. "Why should we transport potential hooliganism somewhere else?" he asked.

He has never met the seven men who will form the opposition but Smith is in the painful position of having a foot in both camps. He was present as a new member of the committee that, under the chairmanship of Philip Carter, reversed the decision that had been taken under Jack Dunnett, his predecessor.

"We started the discussions last December," Smith said, "and they went on until May. The Football Association told us that they would let us know

about our position in the FA Cup in October and, on May 22, the management committee agreed at their meeting to exempt us from the two relevant rules."

Within 48 hours the individual members and the collective opinion of the committee had altered. "After six months of talks they changed their minds without even consulting us," Evans said. "What is going on? They have made an error of judgement and I think they have been surprised by the reaction. So, indeed, were we."

He added that Luton had received letters and telephone calls from other League clubs offering their support. Cardiff were not among them. They are seeking £25,000 in compensation, a sum that Evans described as "ridiculous. They won't get it from us. Perhaps they will get it from the management committee."

Evans, who is clearly committed to his club's experimental move, was "shocked about our expulsion. It is ridiculous not to give it a run and the Cup is an important part of it. The players form the atmosphere anyway, not the crowd. If 300 people are exchanging obscene chants from either end, is that atmosphere?"

His vision of the future at Kenilworth Road goes beyond an artificial surface that is surrounded by no fences, no closed circuit cameras and no policemen. It includes a roof over the stadium. "We've got to move ahead, and it is madness to open our doors for only 30 times a year."

"It makes obvious sense to have a covered pitch that can be used all the time. The trouble is there is no sense in football at the moment. Why can't everybody who wants to watch football all belong to one big membership club? After all, we need to get back the one and a half million spectators we lost last season."

Smith, who is determined to remain as a member of the committee, doubts whether his colleagues have "witnessed the intense hostility outside grounds. Not surprisingly, decent people will not come under those circumstances and we are convinced that we are winning them back even though it may be early days."

"Under the rules, the committee are empowered to use their discretion."

## RACING

## Sangster puts on a defiant face

By Michael Seely

Robert Sangster faced the break-up of his multi-million-pound racing partnership with Stavros Niarchos with a bold statement yesterday of his intentions.

"I am certainly not going to be drawing my horns in. I intend to expand. I shall be buying 30 to 40 yearlings this autumn as so far I have kept my powder pretty dry."

"And there is a lot of rubbish talked about my having had a bad year. As you know, Vincent O'Brien's horses haven't been firing, but I am still fifth in the owners' table in Britain and I have had 253 winners worldwide."

Niarchos's decision to end his six-year association with the Sangster syndicate was motivated by the Greek shipping magnate's desire to concentrate his racing and breeding interests entirely in the studs and horses he owns exclusively in his own right in Europe and in the United States.

"This is merely a change in emphasis," Alan Cooper, Niarchos's racing manager, said. "Mr Niarchos has about 100 mares and 150 horses in training. He also owns the Haras du Fresnay de Bouffard stud in France and the Spring Oak Farm in Kentucky. He will be standing six stallions of his own in France next year, including Persepolis, Proclia and Ballamont."

The withdrawal phase will take place over a three-year period. Niarchos has a share in the two-year-olds and older horses in training with Vincent O'Brien this season but no interest in the yearlings.

Niarchos's decision seems entirely natural. He is now in his late 70s. He was drawn into the Ballydoyle operations in 1978, when the inflationary spiral in bloodstock prices was just starting.

The fact that the Arabs are now partners in some of the O'Brien horses and also that the Greek magnate has no interest in the Coolmore stud itself (which is owned in partnership by O'Brien, Sangster and John Magnier) may also be influencing his departure from a situation over which he may feel he has little control.

Sangster commented: "There will be a lot of price-less stock coming on to the market. The syndicate will of course be buying some of them back. But there could also be some American high rollers, who should be taking an interest."

Public interest in Sangster has always been intense. The Isle of Man-based millionaire, whose fortune initially was derived from Vernon Pools, is the world's largest investor in bloodstock.

He has been Britain's leading owner five times in the past nine years. Now he has 1,500 horses in training in Britain, Ireland, the United States, South Africa and other countries, and he has recently laid out £14m in installing Michael Dickinson as his private trainer at Manton, Wiltshire.

## Irish hit form as Spain take a tumble

By Mitchell Platt

Ronan Rafferty (67) outscored Severiano Ballesteros (74) by seven shots to lead Ireland to a glorious victory in the \$1 million Dunhill Cup first round at St Andrews yesterday, while England suffered another sporting defeat against Argentina.

Rafferty relishes nothing more than a stiff challenge and as he prised open the door for a famous Irish triumph, so Des Smyth (71) ended Spain's resistance by overcoming the prodigious Jose-Maria Olazabal (73).

In truth Ballesteros struggled from the moment his opening drive met a watery grave in the Swilken Burn. He left the first green only one shot behind, but Rafferty applied the pressure by moving four shots clear in this medal matchplay contest with an impeccable outward half of 33.

Ballesteros, apparently suffering with a cold, holed from eight feet for a birdie at the 10th. But he took three putts at both the 13th and 15th holes, missing on each occasion from 18 inches, and Rafferty comfortably completed the execution of the day.

Smyth's one-stroke advantage after 13 holes grew to two when Olazabal drove out of bounds at the next, but he showed enormous resilience under intense pressure to hole from 30 feet and salvage his par at the 17th.

David Ebery (73) lost to Jose Rivero (71) after which both players were fined £100 for slow play. Ebery said: "I'm not happy with the decision. You can hardly be expected to meet the timing guidelines when a B52 bomber is hovering over the top of your head."

England's demise stemmed first from Howard Clark (70) being unable to contain Vicente Fernandez (67), then from Gordon J Brand, one ahead with three to play, suffering a two-shot swing at the 16th where he took three to get down from over the back of the green and Adan Sosa holed from 12 feet for a birdie.

Fernandez said: "They will not exactly be dancing in the streets of Buenos Aires, as they were after we won the World Cup, but this victory

will help to promote the game in my country where we have only a dozen full-time playing professionals."

Scotland made no mistake against Indonesia. Sam Torrance and Sandy Lyle scored 68 and 69 respectively, which will increase their confidence for the match against Ireland today, and Gordon Brand Jr (71) did all that was necessary to ensure a convincing 3-0 win.

Wales will be more severely examined by Australia in the second round than they were by the New Zealanders, who fell apart once Mark Mouland (69) took control of the opening game against Greg Turner (77). Ian Woosnam, who romped home in 32 for a 66, eased the burden on Philip Parkin, whose 69 soothed any lingering hangover from his last round of 82 at The Belfry last Sunday.

The United States, the favourites, and Australia, the holders, predictably overwhelmed Zambia and Italy respectively.

## Card of course

Old Course, St Andrews					
Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	370	4	10	342	4
2	411	4	11	172	3
3	371	4	12	316	4
4	463	4	13	425	5
5	564	5	14	567	6
6	418	4	15	413	4
7	372	4	16	382	4
8	178	3	17	481	4
9	356	4	18	354	4

Out 3,501 36 In 3,432 36

Total yardage: 6,933 Par: 72

The engaging Zambians will return home with their memories. Peter Sinyama was one stroke ahead of US Open champion Ray Floyd after six holes, although he was eventually comprehensively beaten. Samuel Mwanza's outward half of 45 resembled a Botham innings with a plethora of sixes. Even so he reduced the infamous 17th "Road Hole" to size with a majestic five-iron approach to within two feet of the hole for a birdie three.

Dr Kenneth Kaunda, the Zambian president, had sent the three players a good luck telegram and he urged them to represent their country well. He can be proud of their performance.

## First-round scores

Wales beat New Zealand 3-0 R Deane (68) beat G Turner (77); S Torrance (68) beat P Parkin (71); D Ebery (73) beat R Rivero (71).	Argentina beat England 2-1 V Fernandez (67) beat H Clark (70); S Lyle (68) beat G Brand (70); A Sosa (72) beat I Woosnam (72) lost to P Parkin (77).
Japan beat South Korea 3-0 T Nakajima (69) beat Choi Yoon-Soo (78); T Ozaki (71) beat Choi Sang-Ho (78); N Ozaki (67) beat Cho Ho-Sang (74).	Australia beat Italy 3-0 R Deane (68) beat C Pocco (70); G Norman (67) beat G Cat (72); D Graman (69) beat S Deane (79).
Canada beat Sweden 2-1 D Barr (69) beat L Larmer (74); R Zekel (75) beat O Stenberg (72); D Halkerson (69) beat A Forrester (71).	Ireland beat Spain 2-1 R Rafferty (67) beat S Ballesteros (74); D Ebery (73) beat J Rivero (71); D Smyth (71) beat J Olazabal (73).
US beat Zambia 3-0 R Floyd (72) beat P Sinyama (81); M O'Meara (67) beat S Mwanza (83); L Woosnam (70) beat P Parkin (70).	France beat Australia 1-0 Mouland (69) beat Sinyama (70); G Norman (67) beat Sinyama (70); G Norman (67) beat Sinyama (70); G Norman (67) beat Sinyama (70).
Scotland beat Indonesia 3-0 S Torrance (68) beat Sumarno (78); G Brand Jr (71) beat M Nasim (83); A Lyle (69).	USA beat Zambia 3-0 R Floyd (72) beat P Sinyama (81); M O'Meara (67) beat S Mwanza (83); L Woosnam (70) beat P Parkin (70).

## RUGBY UNION

## Scotland banking on future success

By Ian McLauchlan

The last two weeks have proved to be good ones for the Scottish Rugby Football Union. The announcement last week that McEwan's will spend a six-figure sum per year on the national league and inter-district championship has been followed by the Royal Bank of Scotland, who are to renew their sponsorship of the Scotland's home internationals and youth leagues. This will commence next season and run for a period of three years.

This renewal means that the Royal Bank of Scotland will have contributed more than £1 million to Scottish rugby by the end of the decade.

Mr Charles Winter, the chief executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland, said: "We are delighted that our sponsorship of Scotland's home internationals will continue for a further three seasons."

"The fact that the internationals include matches against England and Wales fits perfectly with our sponsorship programme in that it links our firm base in Scotland with our developing presence in both England and Wales."

"For us, it has been a most rewarding sponsorship and it is doubly satisfying that our support has mirrored a period of outstanding Scottish achievement on the rugby field in that we have been associated with the winning of the Grand Slam and a share in the championship last season."

Dr Doug Smith, the president of the Scottish RFU, in his reply, expressed his pleasure at the new agreement and added: "We at the Scottish Rugby Union feel that this support direct to the grassroots has had a positive effect on the health of Scottish rugby and I am sure this new vote of confidence will do nothing but good."

© Roger Baird, the Kelso winger, has pulled out of the Scotland team to face Japan at Murrayfield tomorrow. The British Lion has a groin injury

## Inspirational figure needed

The late Sir Norman Chester was convinced that one inspirational figure should be selected to take the place of the Football League management committee (Stuart Jones writes).

His opinion, voiced earlier this year, has become even more relevant this week. The present committee, which was reformed in May, could today suffer the embarrassment of having to change the first and last decisions they have taken, both of which concern Luton Town's Littlewoods Cup tie against Cardiff City.

Sir Norman proposed Jimmy Hill as the leading candidate. Hill's professional playing career began in 1949 at Brentford where he played alongside Ron Greenwood, the former manager of England.

A dozen years later as the chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, Hill lifted the game into a new era by helping to abolish the maximum wage.

Hill, aged 58, has been employed by both the national television networks, initially as head of sport at London Weekend and now as a presenter at the BBC. A member of the board at Charlton Athletic, his experience covers more than three decades and his vision embraces almost every aspect of the game.

Gordon Taylor is another possibility. After scuttling down the flanks for Bolton Wanderers, Birmingham City, Blackburn Rovers and Bury for 15 years, he became the secretary of the PFA. He has since gained wide respect and a reputation for using sense to bridge the gap between players and officials.

As an administrator, the outstanding individual is Peter Robinson. After learning his trade as a secretary in the lower divisions with Crewe Alexandra, Scunthorpe United and Brighton, he joined Liverpool more than two decades ago. Significantly, his arrival coincided with their rise to prominence.

## Abbey tribute to Sir Stanley

The football world turned out in force in Westminster Abbey yesterday to pay tribute to Sir Stanley Rous, father figure of the modern game.

Bobby Robson, the England manager, Sir Walter Winterbottom and Joe Mercer, former England managers, Sir Matt Busby, Bobby Charlton, Billy Wright, Jacques Georges, president of UEFA, and representatives from Brazil, Italy, Israel, Japan, East and West Germany and the Sudan, were among those at the memorial and thanksgiving service.

Sir Stanley, aged 91, died in July. The former schoolmaster refereed the 1934 FA Cup final and 34 internationals. He was secretary of the Football Association from 1934-61 during which he wrote the laws of the game. Association board.

From 1961-74 he was president of FIFA, the sport's governing authority worldwide.

In the main address, the Right Reverend John Wain, Lord Bishop of Chelmsford, said: "Sir Stanley was a man of great dedication, not only in sport in general and football in particular, but in the promotion of goodwill and fair play."

The withdrawal phase will take place over a three-year period. Niarchos has a share in the two-year-olds and older horses in training with Vincent O'Brien this season but no interest in the yearlings.

Niarchos's decision seems entirely natural. He is now in his late 70s. He was drawn into the Ballydoyle operations in 1978, when the inflationary spiral in bloodstock prices was just starting.

The fact that the Arabs are now partners in some of the O'Brien horses and also that the Greek magnate has no interest in the Coolmore stud itself (which is owned in partnership by O'Brien, Sangster and John Magnier) may also be influencing his departure from a situation over which he may feel he has little control.

Sangster commented: "There will be a lot of price-less stock coming on to the market. The syndicate will of course be buying some of them back. But there could also be some American high rollers, who should be taking an interest."

Public interest in Sangster has always been intense. The Isle of Man-based millionaire, whose fortune initially was derived from Vernon Pools, is the world's largest investor in bloodstock.

He has been Britain's leading owner five times in the past nine years. Now he has 1,500 horses in training in Britain, Ireland, the United States, South Africa and other countries, and he has recently laid out £14m in installing Michael Dickinson as his private trainer at Manton, Wiltshire.

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